



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,658

THURSDAY 9 JULY 1998

(IR50P) 45p

32-PAGE NEWS SECTION

Is Jack Nicklaus calling it a day?

24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

The life and times of a grass

16-PAGE EDUCATION SECTION

School jobs safe OK?

EDUCATION

Between 1993 and 1997 the proportion of schools where behaviour was judged to be very good fell from two-thirds to one-third.

## 'Stop protecting all your money-grabbing cronies'

By FRAN ABRAMS  
Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR was forced on to the back foot by William Hague over the cash-for-access scandal yesterday as new embarrassing revelations tied a minister and two government advisers to a lobbying firm at the heart of the affair.

The Independent has learnt that Peter Mandelson, along with Ed Balls, Gordon Brown's adviser, and Roger Liddle, a member of the Downing Street Policy Unit, have been booked to brief clients of GPC Market Access. Mr Mandelson and Mr

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Tony Blair, left, on the defensive during Prime Minister's Question yesterday as William Hague warns against the dangers of Labour's 'government without principle'

Liddle confirmed the booking last night, but Mr Balls denied he had been asked to take part.

Among the topics for discussion will be the policy agenda for Labour's conference this year: Economic and Monetary Union, Labour's economic policy and developments in the Public Finance Initiative.

As the Prime Minister struggled to regain the initiative under a fierce attack from the Tory leader, Derek Draper - Mr Mandelson's former adviser - was forced to resign from GPC.

There was more drama yesterday as clients of the lobbyists threatened to drop them and Labour MPs demanded that Mr Draper be thrown out of the party.

During Commons questions yesterday, Mr Blair reiterated

his call for probity from all ministers and officials. But he faced scathing comment from the Conservative leader on his first day back after a two-week illness.

Accusing Mr Blair of perpetuating a "culture of cronyism", Mr Hague said: "When are you going to stop protecting the money-grabbing cronies you've surrounded yourself with - they are feather-bedding, pocket-lining, money-grabbing cronies - and actually clean up the act of this government?"

"Don't you recognise that

very quickly becomes government for sale and that is what is now beginning to happen?"

In a self-mocking reference to the illness which laid him low for a fortnight, the Tory leader said: "Even with my sinuses I could smell the stench coming out of these revelations."

But Mr Blair said each allegation in the cash-for-access row had been disproved. "You bandy around allegations of cronyism and corruption. What you won't do is make a specific charge and sustain it. That is because every allegation made in the Observer has been in-

vestigated and found to be untrue," he said.

This case isn't Jonathan Aitken. It is not Neil Hamilton. It is not cash-for-questions. It is not Asil Nadir."

Mr Blair confirmed that the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Richard Wilson, was reviewing the rules governing relationships with lobbyists. Those rules would be published and anyone breaking them would be "out on their ear", he said.

Meanwhile the firm at the centre of the new revelations, GPC Market Access, announced the resignation of Mr

Draper, who had been accused of claiming privileged access to ministers.

Sir Ian Wrigglesworth, company chairman, said: "Following discussions, Derek Draper has this afternoon told GPC he has resigned in the best interests of GPC, its clients and staff, and to pursue other interests." Mr Draper said he hoped to sign a contract for a newspaper column shortly.

There was a further fresh twist as the Local Government minister, Hilary Armstrong, walked out of a news conference when asked by a BBC cor-

respondent about claims that another lobbyist at the centre of the recent controversy, Ben Lucas, had promised the Local Government Association he could offer an early sight of a local government White Paper. Mr Armstrong claimed the question was unfair.

Yesterday, members of the Parliamentary Labour Party demanded that Mr Draper be expelled from the party, and later an executive committee including Tony Blair and John Prescott confirmed that there were mechanisms for doing so if necessary. Ironically, an of-

fence of bringing the party into disrepute, introduced by New Labour and dismissed by left-wingers as an attempt to purge them, could be the downfall of Mr Draper - a Blairite.

Last night, Mr Mandelson defended his decision to speak at the GPC Forum - to which

he was invited by Mr Draper. "Though no date is in my diary I am happy to participate in such an event. I have addressed many similar business forums and regard such discussions as an important part of my ministerial role and will continue to do so," he said.

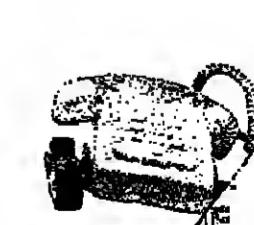
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## College tuition fees plan in chaos

PLANS TO impose university tuition fees on all students from September are in doubt after peers vowed to continue their rebellion over fees in Scotland.

Senior government sources have admitted that the Bill introducing fees and a new system of student loans could be lost if the Lords persist in their opposition.

The positions of both sides appeared to be hardening last night. Tony Blair told the Commons that the Government would not give in to the Lords'

By JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

demands. Baroness Blatch, the Conservatives' education spokeswoman in the Lords, said: "The feeling in the House of Lords last night was so strong and so robust I would be surprised if they would cave in to Government pressure."

On Tuesday, peers voted that students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, should be exempt, like Scottish students, from a fourth-year of tuition fees

at Scottish universities. Most students outside Scotland are

worried that the deadlock may kill the whole Teaching and Higher Education Bill and postpone the introduction of tuition fees. Universities say fees are vital to relieve the financial crisis in higher education.

Diana Warwick, chief executive of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said: "The top priority now must be to ensure that

the Bill gets through in time."

Tuesday's vote was the third defeat for the Government over the issue. The peers' amendment is expected to be overturned in the Commons on Monday but, because the Bill started in the Lords, the normal rules which allow the Commons to override Lords' decisions do not apply.

Next Tuesday, the Bill will again return to the Lords and could, in theory, be batted to and fro between the two houses throughout the summer

until it falls in the autumn. That is not expected to happen but David Willetts, MP the shadow secretary of state for education, said: "The Government is being dangerously complacent. Ministers will be very lucky to get the Lords to back down."

Mr Blair told the Commons that a government concession would ultimately cost £27m because it would have to fund the fourth year of tuition on courses at English universities. But Mr Willetts said the

righting of the "Scottish anomaly" would cost just £2m and there was no logical reason why the changes should apply outside Scotland.

We understand that the Scottish Office has already set aside the £2m but that this is being blocked by the Department for Education and Employment. There is no rational explanation for the Government's position. It is quite simply a personality clash between the department and the Scottish Office.

## Tina Brown quits to launch 'Tina', the mag

TINA BROWN resigned as editor of the *New Yorker* yesterday, ending weeks of speculation about her future.

She is joining Miramax, the independent film-production company, to become chairman of a new publishing division. It is believed her responsibilities will include launching and editing a new glossy magazine.

Ms Brown, 44, who is

By TOBY YOUNG

British, announced her departure to staff yesterday morning but did not notify the *New Yorker*'s proprietor, Si Newhouse, until later, when she apparently told him during a conference call at which several of her staff were present.

Her decision follows a tense meeting with Mr Newhouse

last week to discuss renewal of her contract, which expired on 1 July. She is reported to have told him she had a number of job offers. He failed to plead with her to stay and she decided enough was enough.

Ms Brown has had a number of setbacks this year. In January it was announced the *New Yorker* lost \$11m (£6.8m) in

its independent status within Mr Newhouse's empire and become part of Condé Nast, the Newhouse family's magazine publishing company. The magazine is to vacate its spacious offices on West 43rd Street and compete for space with 15 other Condé Nast titles in a new tower block in Times Square.

This was a blow to Ms Brown, who had hoped to

strengthen the magazine's independence within the Newhouse stable. According to the *New York Times* last month "[She] saw the magazine as a strong base from which to develop ancillary sources of revenue, like a book-publishing division or film-production company, consistent with the *New Yorker*."

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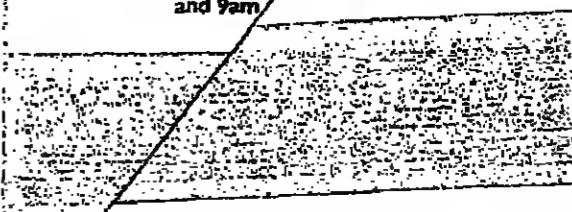
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Inflationary signals in the UK remain "ominous", according to a survey published on the eve of the Bank of England's interest rate decision.

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Brian Davis, chief executive of Nationwide building society, was paid £499,000 in the year to April - a 26 per cent rise.

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"Early in my career I remember just how impressed Japanese clients were when sections from Hansard were re-typed on fancy paper and marketed as 'political intelligence'."

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## Minister 'booked by lobbyist'

BY FRAN ABRAMS  
Political Correspondent

PETER MANDELSON, the minister without portfolio, and two senior government advisers have been booked to brief clients of a lobbyist at the centre of the cash-for-access affair. *The Independent* has learnt...

GPC Market Access, which yesterday announced the resignation of Mr Mandelson's former aide Derek Draper, confirmed that Roger Liddle, a member of the Downing Street Policy Unit, and Ed Balls, an aide to the Chancellor Gordon Brown, have agreed to take part along with the minister.

Although Mr Balls denied that he had agreed to take part, he is advertised as a forthcoming speaker in a GPC publication, *Access Politics*.

Downing Street confirmed that Mr Mandelson and Mr Liddle were planning to take part in the events.

Special advisers' contracts say they must ask permission if they "wish to take part in any outside activity where information or experience gained in the course of your work is likely to be relevant".

The forum will discuss topics such as the policy agenda for Labour's annual conference this year. Economic and Monetary Union, Labour's economic policy, the future of the European Union and developments in the private finance initiative. Attendance is by invitation only, and the two-hour discussions will be under Chatham House rules - that is, off the record.

Among recent clients of GPC Market Access are the BBC.

A Downing Street spokesman could not confirm whether

British Telecommunications, the Pfizer pharmaceuticals company - which makes the impotence drug Viagra - Marks and Spencer and the merchant bank Goldman Sachs.

Last night, a spokesman for Mr Balls said: "Ed Balls was extremely surprised to learn he had been put down for something he knew nothing about."

But Sir Ian Wrigglesworth, the head of GPC Market Access, said that all three men had agreed in principle to take part after being approached by Mr Draper. "I am told it was agreed in principle and I don't believe we would have put it in our newsletter unless that agreement had been reached," he said.

Sir Ian added that there was nothing unusual about the forum. "This is a perfectly legitimate forum which provides an opportunity for a dialogue between people in the business world and people in the political world," he said. It would include academics as well as business people, and Tories and Liberal Democrats would also be invited.

A Downing Street spokesman could not confirm whether

Mr Liddle had asked the permission of the head of the policy unit, David Milliband.

Speaking for Mr Liddle and Mr Mandelson, the spokesman said: "They both indicated that they are willing in principle to address the GPC Forum. It is a small private forum under Chatham House rules.

"These meetings are held on a regular basis by companies, universities and newspapers and are an accepted part of political life," he said.

The Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, has demanded to know whether permission was given for the two special advisers to take part, and whether Mr Brown and Tony Blair were informed.

"This is yet more evidence of the magic circle of cronies connecting Tony Blair's inner circle with Derek Draper's lobbying firm. Here we have Roger Liddle, now a senior adviser at Downing Street paid for by the tax payer, helping to support a commercial activity put on by a lobbying firm of which he was until recently part owner," he said.



A brochure (top left) produced by GPC Market Access lists business advisers attached to government ministries, including James Palumbo (above)

## They thought I was as sleazy as them'

BY PAUL LASHMAR

GIVEN GREG Palast's reputation as an American consumer champion and investigative writer, why were the lobbyists not suspicious of a journalistic set up?

"Everyone knew who I was, they just assumed I was as sleazy as they were," says Mr Palast. He says the Roger Liddle denial and the access offered by lobbyists like Derek Draper and Karl Milner have to be seen in context.

"I went to them and said I was representing clients who were American electricity and oil corporations. These companies wanted to invest in

Banqueting Suite in Whitehall. The lobbyists certainly seem to have been taken in by the flamboyant undercover reporter with his trade mark Frank Sinatra-style trilby.

"They thought nothing of a journalist also working as a consultant. They did not seem to understand what a conflict of interest was. Draper had his *Express* column. They did not seem to think it was wrong to write about a government and work with it," according to Mr Palast, who is riled by Labour attacks on his character.

Mr Palast says only one of the lobbyists was initially suspicious and asked if he was being taped. A quick search of newspaper cuttings and the Internet shows the history of a man who fights rather than aids large corporations. As recently as March, Mr Palast had written for both the *Observer* and the *Financial Times*, warning of the predatory nature of American utility companies. The lobbyists apparently knew about these but did not smell a rat.

"It was very easy. They were obviously convinced that, at heart, I was just as sleazy as them, that I made my money

making sleazy deals behind

closed doors," says Mr Palast.

Rejecting Labour attacks on his character, Mr Palast gives more details of his links with the party before the election.

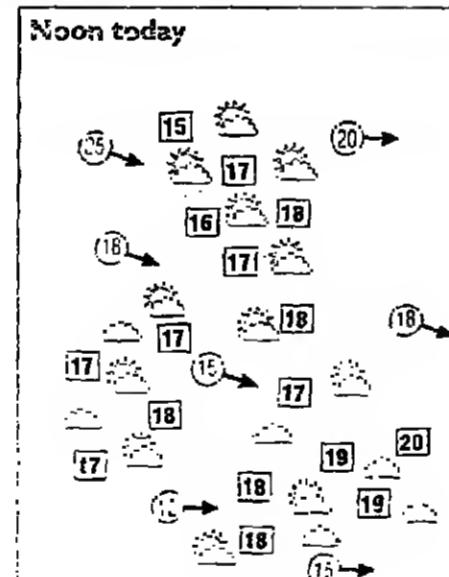
"The first approach came from Jack Cunningham, who asked me to investigate American utility companies' involvement in the British market," he says.

He recalls that on at least three occasions Margaret Beckett, now President of the Board of Trade, bought him a pint in the Stranger's Bar in the House of Commons when he advised the Labour Party on utility policy.

Gordon Brown wanted to have lunch with my sister's former senior staffer on the Clinton Administration and me. But I couldn't make it at the time.

"I think the first hint I had that the Labour Party in power would not be the same as in opposition, came when I was asked to address a Labour 'Task Force' meeting. I was asked to lead a discussion on how to deal with the utilities. The session was called 'Secrecy in Government Regulation'. The first thing they said as we began was the meeting would be secret," says Mr Palast.

## BRITAIN TODAY



**SUN & MOON**  
Sun rises: 04.58  
Sun sets: 21.17  
Moon rises: 20.43  
Moon sets: 04.54  
Full Moon: Today

## NEXT FEW DAYS

For the latest forecast, call 0891 5009

1. Forecast by the Met Office, a government research and development agency. Source: The Met Office, Chelmsford, Essex

2. Weather forecast from the BBC Weather Centre, Chelmsford, Essex

## LIGHTING UP TIMES

Belfast 21.57 to 05.01  
Birmingham 21.29 to 04.57  
Bristol 21.26 to 04.56  
Glasgow 21.06 to 04.48  
London 21.17 to 04.55  
Manchester 21.36 to 04.53  
Newcastle 21.43 to 04.41

## HIGH TIDES

London AM 01.17 6.6 PM 01.37 6.9

Liverpool 11.54 6.8 PM 01.12 9.2

Awsmouth 07.45 12.4 PM 07.12 8

Hull (Mon-Sat) 06.54 8.2 PM 19.20 8.1

Greenock 01.10 3.2 PM 13.18 3.0

Dun Laoghaire 12.19 3.1 PM 09.29 3.9

BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

Most recent available figure at noon

Wind: Calm/Cloudy: C/Cloudy: F/Fr: F/Fog: H/Haze: M/Mist: P/Palm: S/Sunny: S/Sleet: Sh/Shower: Sn/Snow: Th/Thunder:

Aberdeen C 14 57

Anglesey C 14 57

Ayr F 15 59

Belfast F 14 57

Blackpool F 16 61

Bournemouth F 17 63

Brighton F 17 63

Bristol F 16 61

Cardiff F 18 64

Caithness F 18 64

Dover F 16 61

Dublin F 14 57

Edinburgh F 17 63

Exeter F 18 64

Glasgow F 17 63

Gwynedd F 16 61

Inverness F 15 59

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Lancaster F 15 59

Leeds F 14 57

Liverpool F 15 59

London F 15 59

Nottingham F 15 59

Oban F 15 59

Orkney F 15 59

Peterhead F 15 59

Shetland F 15 59

Sheffield F 15 59

Southampton F 15 59

Stornoway F 14 57

Swindon F 15 59

Wales F 15 59

Worcester F 15 59

Yarmouth F 15 59

Youghal F 15 59

Ypres F 15 59

Youghal F 15 59

Ypres F 15 59

**crony** *krōn'i*, *n.* an intimate companion. — *n.* **crō'nyism** (U.S. coll.) the appointment of friends to well-paid posts regardless of their fitness for these posts.

# So just who are Tony's cronies?



**GEOFFREY ROBINSON**

Paymaster General and *New Statesman* proprietor. Financial affairs of Balkan complexity. Protected by Gordon Brown but facing a move to Transport after DTI indicated his business interests were too intriguing for a trade and industry portfolio



**GAIL REBUCK**

Ardently Blairite. Energetic and articulate head of Random House, short-listed for job as vice-chairman of the BBC. Her husband, Philip Gould, is Mr Blair's personal pollster, closely involved with Lord Hollick and United Newspapers.



**NEAL LAWSON**

Former adviser to Gordon Brown who set up LLM consultancy with two veterans of Tony Blair and Jack Straw's offices. Key figure in Nexus, Blairite intellectual network. Promised prospective clients help in navigating "schizophrenic" New Labour.



**ROGER LIDDLE**

Amusing and blubulous former Social Democrat, erstwhile business partner of Mr Draper. In the vanguard of the pro-EMU camp inside No 10 Policy Unit. Reputed to have told Observer journalist that he would "make the call" to anyone within inner circle.



**DEREK DRAPER**

Derek Draper. Self-confessed "boastful and brash" Chorley-born lobbyist who started trouble at t' mill by bragging of his intimacy with the "seventeen people who matter". Former Prime Ministerial baby-sitter and aide to Peter Mandelson.



**BEN LUCAS**

Former adviser and prized speech-writer to Jack Straw. Joined forces with Lawson and Jonny Mendelson after the 1997 general election to create the LLM lobbying company.

as them

WILLIAM HAGUE is back from the ropes and it was some of Tony Blair's best friends who helped him stage his recovery.

To judge from the body-languor at the dispatch box yesterday - the Prime Minister hunched and glancing anxiously at his notes, Mr Hague leaning forward, buzzing with malicious adrenalin - you would think that Mr Blair had been subjected to a debilitating illness, not the Leader of the Opposition.

Crony is an unpleasant word, and thus an extremely effective political weapon. When Mr Hague used it repeatedly to attack the tightly-knit circle of advisers and allies around Mr Blair, he struck a nerve - albeit one left by New Labour with a great big sign on it saying "hit me".

Mr Hague's attack served up a picture of a closed, unaccountable *casa nostra* around the Prime Minister, distant from ordinary voters in lifestyle, clinging to power, burocratic and greedy for per-

sonal gain. All of these points could be made for all time about all political cultures. But sometimes they hit home because something intangible and unexpected suddenly connects. A powerful negative picture emerges which a clever opposition can exploit. So it is with Lobbygate.

The Tories have waited since May 1997 for a new Labour stumble which would pull together the various diffuse criticisms. They have now got it. The studied implication of Mr Hague's comments was that the Prime Minister, who told TV viewers it was a "pretty straight sort of guy" when accused of reversing a pledge on banning tobacco sponsorship, had allowed an in-crowd to develop around him which believes itself to be above reproach or scrutiny.

The appetite to hear 20 rude things about new Labour you always thought but didn't dare to say has been awakened. Politics

is full of people envious of the links and cachet of others. Left and Right are now united in pouring contemptuously on the fashionably gelled head of lobbyist Derek Draper and the unfashionably receding one of No 10 adviser Roger Liddle.

To that extent, Mr Draper's plausible defence: "I've done nothing wrong", is irrelevant. As he knows full well as an ex-

drouthy crony, Tam 'o' shanter him like a vera brother". In the 19th century Walter Scott, Thackeray and Wilde Colling all used crony to mean no more than a close and trusted friend.

The start of the slide into pejorative use may have begun when Disraeli used crony as a verb: "I wonder whom Grey will crony with this half", was wrote in 1826. The 1972 Supplement to the *OED* blames the Americans for the modern political phenomenon of cronyism. Two meanings are listed: "a. Friendship; the ability or desire to make friends. b. (chiefly US:

The appointment of friends to govern-

ment posts without proper regard to their qualifications." While the affectionate use dates back to 1840, the earliest derogatory reference to cronyism came from Walter de la Mare in 1922, when he accused Samuel Johnson of it. The first political leader to be charged with cronyism appears to have been President Truman, when the *New York Times* of 17 August 1952 referred to: "The amount of politically entrenched bureaucracy that has earned for Mr Truman's regime its sorry reputation for corruption, cronyism, extravagance, waste and confusion."

WILLIAM HARTSTON

ed, dedicated team, praised for its hard work and ability to pull together into something which, with a bit of Tony spin, can seem far more sinister.

The trouble, as John Major discovered, is judging when to start throwing bodies overboard. A prime minister who gets rid of ministers at the first flash of tabloid sex-revelation soon ends up as hostage to voracious media demands for heads on platters. Mr Blair made it clear in his handling of Robin Cook's extra-marital affair that he drew a distinction between public and private life.

Sleaze, however is different and in Scotland and corruption-prone local councils, Mr Blair has suspended suspected wrongdoers. Closer to home, he is less Draconian, standing by Lord Simon, the minister who was Simon to have undeclared off-shore holdings and defending Paymaster Geoffrey Robinson against allegations of financial impropriety.

The tension between Mr Blair's tolerance of foibles at

Westminster and his ruthlessness in other parts of the country will not go unnoticed. Mr Draper, who dwells so tantalisingly on the borderline between being great fun and a great liability, has soaked up a lot of punches this week - a lot of them vicariously from people who dare not attack his soulmate, Peter Mandelson.

The more serious matter for the Government is the accusation that No 10 adviser Roger Liddle was prepared to act in concert with Mr Draper's firm to help it secure business. That implication is that Mr Liddle maintained an unsuitably close relationship with lobbying interests when in government.

That is a serious charge. It would have been better if the advisor had offered his resignation, pending investigation of the claims. The Prime Minister should have accepted it. That may still be the best course of action to salvage the Government's most valued asset - its reputation for probity.

## AND HOW DO YOU DEFINE ONE?

THERE WAS nothing wrong with being someone's crony until comparatively recently. The word comes from the Greek *chronios*, long-continued (derived from *chronos*, time) and originally meant simply an old friend. The *Oxford English Dictionary* suggests it was originally college slang but the first cited use was by Samuel Pepys in his diary entry for 30 May 1665, when he referred to: "Jack Cole, my old schoolfellow ... who was a great crony of mine". Robert Burns also seemed to be using the word in a positive sense when he wrote, in "Tam o' Shanter" in 1791: "His ancient, trusty,

adviser to Gordon Brown who set up LLM consultancy with two veterans of Tony Blair and Jack Straw's offices. Key figure in Nexus, Blairite intellectual network. Promised prospective clients help in navigating "schizophrenic" New Labour.

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# Orange Order threatens to snub Blair

THE ORANGE Order may refuse to meet Tony Blair today after Downing Street rejected suggestions that the decision to re-route the Drumcree march from the Garvaghy Road will not be overturned.

Sources within the Orange Order believe that those who want to continue with plans to meet Mr Blair will most probably get their way, but the hardliners may severely restrict their room for manoeuvre over any possible deal.

The development came against a background of rising tension and expectations of further violence. The Royal Ulster Constabulary revealed that there had been more than 1,400 acts of violent disorder since Sunday evening, including 12

shootings and 25 blast bombs.

There have been more than 200 attacks on the security forces.

The Orange Order's leadership has been under increasing pressure from some members, including Joel Patton of the Spirit of Drumcree group, not to go for talks with Mr Blair when he visits Ulster today. For the moment, the loyalists hold the upper hand, and any compromise would be seen as an act of weakness.

David Jones, the Orange Order's spokesman in Portadown, stated that the Prime Minister must make up his mind about allowing the parade to go down Garvaghy Road. "and it make it up quick", he



Dan Chung

An Orangeman videotaping troops across the barricades in a field near Drumcree church, Portadown

added that the alternative would be open confrontation between his members and security forces on 12 July. He continued: "The clock is ticking and ticking fast."

As the first of the extra 800 troops being sent to Northern

Ireland flew in yesterday, Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, stated that if it was discovered that loyalist paramilitaries had broken their ceasefire she would consider a whole range of sanctions, including stopping the

early release of prisoners. Ms Mowlam met the RUC Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan, and strongly condemned the loyalist violence which had been unleashed, and in particular singled out the attacks on Catholics, and the

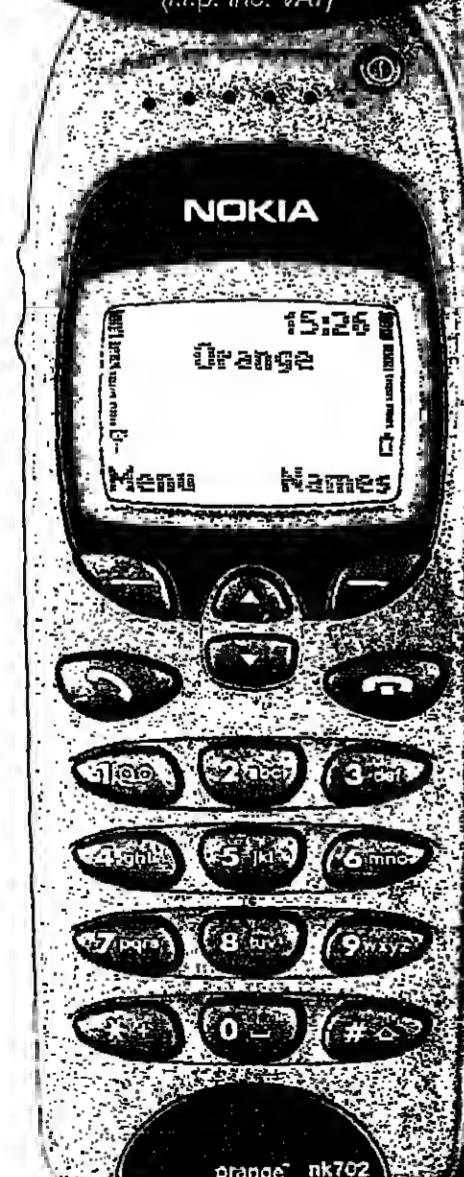
wives and children of police officers. Meanwhile, the residents of the Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast yesterday won the first round in their legal battle to stop an Orange Order march through their area next Monday. Mr Justice Campbell

reasons of political expediency. The disturbances had led to severe problems for the local economy, with many shops shut and centres of towns deserted. Late night shopping in Belfast tonight has been cancelled because of the security situation.

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## Mirror chief buys into peace process

BY PAUL McCANN  
Media Editor

### Derry Journal

has described as "like the Daily Mail calling for Enoch Powell to be disinterred and hung from a lampost".

Yet those close to Montgomery deny that any great conversion has taken place. "He has an identifiable Ulster Protestant name," says a close friend. "But people have made a simplistic assumption about him from that. There has never been any Orange Order or sectarian connections in his family. He has never been a member of any Northern Ireland political party."

Mr Montgomery's support of the peace process also chimes with many of the province's business leaders, which may well be where he sees his future. Recent City speculation has had the Mirror Group up for sale, and sees Mr Montgomery buying newspapers in Northern Ireland to prepare a base there.

Such is the change being felt in Ulster politics that staff at the *Derry Journal* yesterday were concerned more for their jobs and working conditions than about their new owner's religious background: "We know him more as a numbers man," said one journalist. "We don't think he'll get involved in the editorial of the paper."

The Mirror Group chief himself will only say that the acquisition of the *Derry Journal* is good for his shareholders.

Some believe that the purchase is more about expanding his business and getting extra printing capacity for Irish editions of the *Mirror* than about the future of Northern Ireland. But for David Montgomery, the two are ultimately connected.



Montgomery: Purchase is good for shareholders'

## Museums 'man of the year' loses his job

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

BRITAIN'S MOST controversial museum director, Julian Spalding, has had his post of head of Glasgow Museums abolished by the city council. He has been given a pay-off believed to be £100,000 in addition to his £30,000 a year pension.

In a tortuous procedure which has ended his nine-year tenure, Glasgow council merged its museums and libraries departments with the parks department to make a new culture and leisure services department.

This meant that Mr Spalding had to re-apply for his own job. He was the only applicant but failed to keep his post, which was re-advertised. The job went subsequently to Bridget McConnell, the community affairs

manager of Fife council. Ms McConnell, the wife of the former general secretary of the Labour Party in Scotland, Jack McConnell, will have a £71,000-a-year post and be in charge of a £94m budget.

Mr Spalding's eventual career climaxed last year with a court case against the trustees of the Burrell Collection after he decided to ignore the terms of the bequest and loan items from the collection abroad. His many achievements include opening Glasgow's gallery of modern art and winning the Museums Man of the Year award last year for his fight against admission charges.

According to one Glasgow Museums official yesterday, Julian stirred things up and changed things. He also made great enemies."

# Editor whose jet-set style put glitz into the gossip



Tina Brown in her New York office during her editorship of 'Vanity Fair'

BY PAUL McCANN  
Media Editor

IT IS no exaggeration to say that Tina Brown has been the most viciously gossiped-about journalist of her generation.

Her near-mythical successes at networking, turning around ailing magazines, her looks and her marriage to the former *Sunday Times* editor, Harold Evans, means she has been consistently in the news for two decades.

Now that she has left the *New Yorker*, America's most prestigious magazine, the gossip will only get worse.

Ms Brown, 44, became used to celebrity during her Home Counties childhood. Her father, George Brown, was a producer of minor British films *Guns of Batasi* and *The Trap*, while her mother, Bettina, used to be Laurence Olivier's press agent. It has been maliciously reported that even as a child she would seek out the most famous lap to sit on at her parents' frequent dinner parties.

At Oxford, she wrote a play, *Under the Bamboo Tree*, which was performed at the Bush Theatre and won the Sunday Times drama award in 1973. She graduated with a second in English and began writing for the newspaper that gave her the award and was to give her a future husband.

At the *Sunday Times* her social contacts were legendary. Shortly after she arrived her section editor went out of sympathy to a party she was throwing expecting to meet her student friends. Instead the guests included Kingsley and Martin Amis, Kenneth Tynan,



Ms Brown with her husband Harry Evans - king and queen of the New York jet set

Auberon Waugh, Clive James and Tom Stoppard.

After winning awards for her journalism at the *Sunday Times* she joined the ailing *Tatler* magazine in 1979. At the time it was selling only 4,000 copies. By focusing on the glamorous and powerful she took its sales up to 20,000.

After marrying Mr Evans in 1981, she was moved by *Tatler's* new owner, Si Newhouse of Condé Nast, to *Vanity Fair*, famously the magazine with the biggest editorial budget in the world.

Thanks to this, *Vanity Fair* was losing a reported \$50m (£30m) a year which Ms Brown claimed to have turned into an annual profit of \$8m in her eight years there.

It was during this period

that her personal style generated much bitchy gossip. She was reputed not to know the names of her staff and to use personal assistants as if they were servants.

Yet she was also famous for being an assiduous worker who would dispatch faxes to contributors at all hours of the day and night.

When she moved to the *New*

*Yorker* in 1992 - house journal of the tweedy, East Coast Wasp establishment - there was more bitching. Her intellectual qualifications for the job were questioned and much resentment was directed at her for being a British arriviste. The jealousy was not helped by Harry Evans' position as president of Random House in New York and the couple's billing as the king and queen of the city's jet set.

The *New Yorker* has been consistently criticised for pandering to celebrity so that Ms Brown now describes herself as "an arse-kissing social gorgon". Former contributors like the writer Garrison Keillor have accused her of "obliterating" the magazine even though its circulation moved up by 200,000 to over 800,000 during her reign.

Despite the circulation increases, the magazine continues to lose money and rumours about her future were rife earlier this year when it was revealed that the magazine's owner, Condé Nast, was taking direct financial control of what was previously Ms Brown's personal fiefdom.

Her closeness to the Blair and Clinton administrations has led to speculation that she might become British Ambassador to the US and she has even been linked to the *Observer* newspaper. Now that her husband has left Random House - and has what is described as a "non-job" for a New York newspaper group - expectations are that New York's most glamorous couple will be heading back across the Atlantic, unbowed, but still gossiped about.

## Calculators banned from maths class

CHILDREN under the age of eight should not use calculators, ministers said yesterday as they promised £60m to revolutionise maths teaching.

For the first time, the Government is telling teachers how to teach the subject. There should be a daily numeracy hour, new emphasis on mental arithmetic, the chanting of times tables and more whole-class teaching.

The strategy, which will be introduced next September, is not compulsory but schools which fail to win inspectors' approval will be attacked if they are not using it.

International studies have shown that Britain is falling behind other countries in maths and ministers have pledged that 75 per cent of 11-year-olds will achieve the expected level in maths by the year 2002.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, said: "Schools need to use tried and tested methods. It is regrettable that we have too many children who can't add up or do basic sums by the time they start secondary school."

Learning times tables, he added, could be fun; at a school

BY JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

he visited, children were using a reggae chant.

Ministers cannot ban calculators without changing the law but they made clear that they want schools to stop using them for infant pupils and to restrict their use for juniors.

Mr Blunkett said: "Reinforcing mental arithmetic will do much to avoid total dependence on calculators, which should be used in the right place and for the right reasons."

The strategy, based on a report from a government task force led by Professor David Reynolds, of Newcastle University, aims to end the use of "discovery" learning and to replace it with the type of whole-class teaching used in some European and Pacific Rim countries.

Teachers should not sit children in rows and lecture them, as they did in the Fifties, but should engage them in questioning and discussion during whole-class sessions.

Professor Reynolds said that the neglect of whole-class teaching had been particularly

harmful to maths teaching. "Until three or four years ago, only 20 per cent of the time in many maths lessons was used for instruction and the rest would be for children working in groups or on their own. Maths needs instruction, because children can't necessarily discover it for themselves."

Professor Reynolds recommends a daily 45-minute maths slot for infants and an hour for juniors. All primary schools will be expected to review their maths teaching and all teachers will be offered retraining. Some of the money will be spent on maths classes for parents and on booklets explaining to them how they can help their children with maths.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, warned the Government against a too detailed prescription for teaching methods.

"If helpful proposals are turned into dictat or rigid timetables are imposed, the strategy will be undermined in teachers' eyes."

Schools will start implementing the Government's new literacy strategy, including a literacy hour, in September.

### IN BRIEF

#### Variety Club fraud investigation

A BRANCH of the Variety Club, the multi-million pound children's charity, is being investigated for fraud. One official has been suspended and fraud squad detectives have been called in to examine the accounts of the club's Northern Region office, based in Newcastle upon Tyne. The club's headquarters in London alerted the Charity Commission about possible irregularities in the accounts of the Northern branch.

#### Jenkins appeals conviction

THE STEPFATHER of murdered teenager Billie-Jo Jenkins has launched an appeal against his conviction for her murder. Lawyers for Sian Jenkins, 40, said yesterday they had lodged appeal papers at Lewes Crown Court, Sussex, where the former deputy headteacher was convicted last week. Jenkins had denied bludgeoning Billie-Jo, 13, to death with an iron spike at her foster family's home in Hastings, Sussex, in February last year.

#### Police body faces £900,000 bill

THE POLICE Federation faces a £900,000 bill after losing an appeal yesterday against the *Guardian* which they claimed had libelled five of their members. Five Metropolitan Police officers, who were not named in an article in the newspaper, claimed they had been linked to an investigation into corruption at a north London police station.

#### Reynolds wins new libel trial

LORD BINGHAM, the Lord Chief Justice, yesterday found there were "misdirections" by the judge who had awarded Albert Reynolds, the former Irish prime minister, just £10,000 in a libel case against the *Sunday Times*.

## Women to face wait for Viagra

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
AND CHARLES ARTHUR

A BLACK market in Viagra will spring up once it is licensed in the UK - among women, a British expert said yesterday.

Derek Machin, a consultant urologist, said trials among women in America of the anti-impotence pill suggested it had beneficial effects. But women should avoid taking it if they were pregnant or likely to become so, because of the potential risk to the foetus.

About 100 women in south-east England and elsewhere in Europe are testing the drug for its effect on their sex lives, the manufacturer, Pfizer, said, but it could be years before any version for women appeared.

William Steers, a US specialist who co-authored the biggest study on Viagra's effects in men, agreed that "there's a lot of pent-up demand" from women for a drug which would have a similar effect on them.

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# Defence review takes toll on the TA

KEY CHANGES		
	Pre-SDR plan	Post-SDR plan
Aircraft-carriers	3	2 (larger)
Ro-ro ships	2	6
Attack submarines	12	10
Destroyers/frigates	35	32
Trident missiles	65	58
Nuclear warheads (max. per submarine)	96	48
Offensive air support	177	154
Heavy airlift (C-17)	0	4
Armoured regiments	8	6
Engineer regiments	11	13
Territorial Army (troops)	57,000	40,000
Total defence budget	£22.24bn	£21.55bn

**TERRITORIAL ARMY** halls across the country could be closed as part of the £685m cuts in spending ordered yesterday under the Strategic Defence Review.

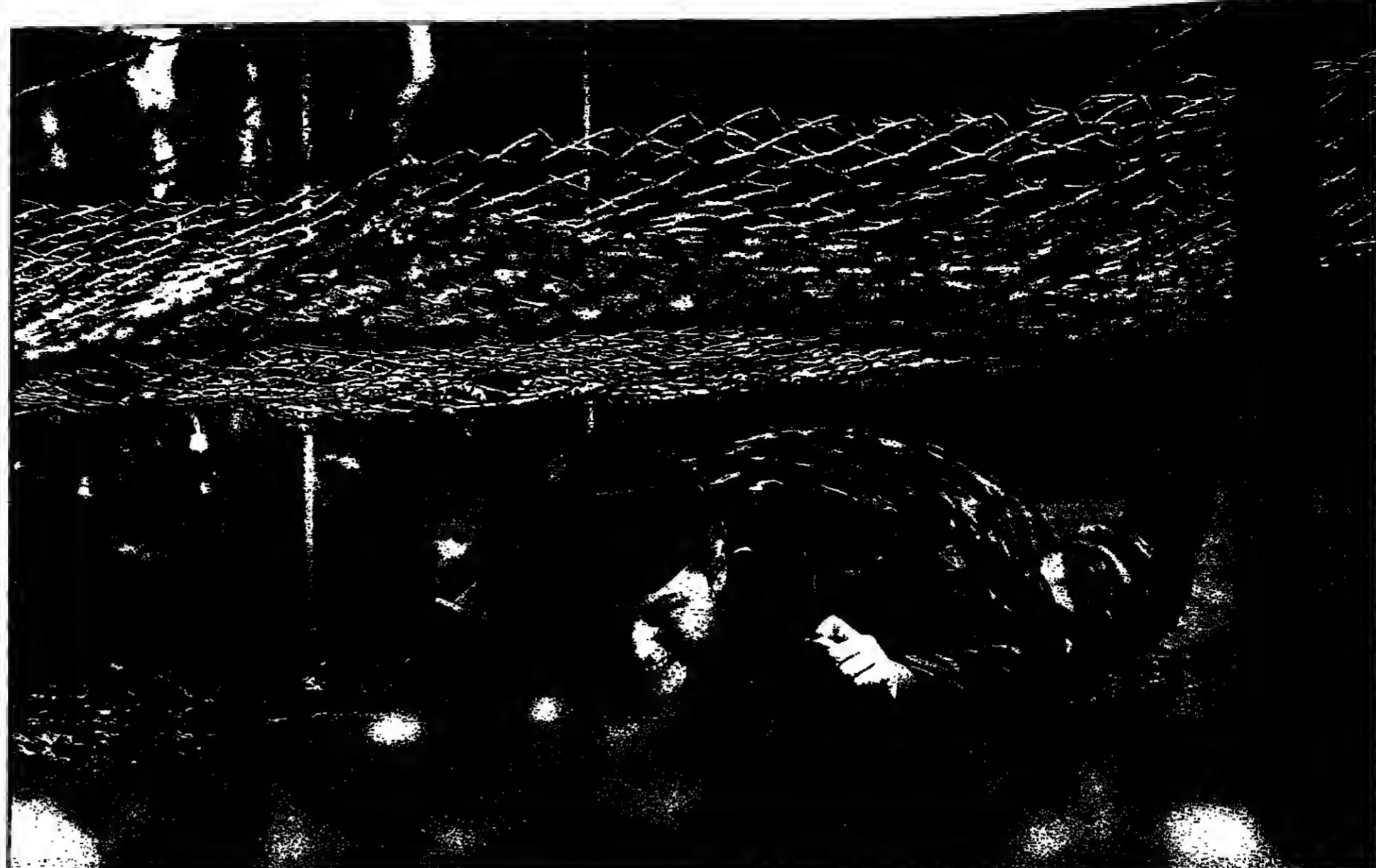
The strategy outlined by George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, aims to modernise the Army, Navy and Air Force into a more flexible, harder-hitting joint rapid-reaction force capable of intervening in areas of sudden tension such as Bosnia and Sierra Leone.

There will be two new £2bn aircraft-carriers planned to go into service in 2012, an extension of the capability to fire Tomahawk land-attack missiles from submarines, a new 200-bed hospital ship, four roll-on/roll-off ferries, four new heavy-lift C-17 aircraft and a new force of air cavalry combining Apache helicopters with the Parachute Regiment.

Mr Robertson insisted it was a foreign policy-led review, designed to give the forces more emphasis on peace-keeping and conflict resolution. Some MPs described the plan as "Oxidam with guns".

Mr Robertson defended the cuts in the TA, whose primary role had been to repel an invasion from the former Soviet Union. He said it would be more relevant, and called up more often in times of crisis.

There are likely to be campaigns to preserve some of the TA units. John Maples, the Tory spokesman on defence, said 172 TA centres would be closed. "We believe that cutting



A female TA member training. The force, whose primary role had been to repel invasion by the former Soviet Union, is to be cut from 57,000 to 40,000 Tom Pilston

## Tory blamed for Defence leak

**TORY** front-bencher was last night at the centre of the row over the leak of the Strategic Defence Review, which infuriated the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, and led to a government investigation into the source.

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, told MPs when he came under fire in the Commons from William Hague, the Conservative leader, that the Tory front-bench spokesman on defence, Robert Key, handed a copy to the BBC political editor, Robin Oakley.

Mr Key's boss, John

Maples, the shadow Defence secretary of state, said on BBC radio that he had received a photocopied version of the Strategic Defence Review at "around 6.30pm" on Monday.

It was on "portcullis House of Commons watermark paper", he said.

The Tory leadership last night rejected as "ridiculous" the suggestion that the source of the leak was Mr Key. It is understood that Mr Key also received the report, like a group of journalists, in brown paper envelopes at the House of Commons, and there is no suggestion he was the source.

The leak was the most serious since Labour came to power, and the most comprehensive since the contents of

Kenneth Clarke's entire budget, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, were leaked from a printer to a national newspaper.

The entire document was delivered in brown paper envelopes to selected journalists at the Daily Telegraph, the Times, the Press Association, Financial Times and the Daily Mail, at different intervals on the eve of its publication.

Each of the journalists was called by telephone and told to collect the envelope, containing a photocopy of the report.

One senior Tory Party official said: "The suggestion that we leaked it to take Derek Draper of the front pages is too crazy to be worth considering."

Mr Hague said: "Only a prime minister in desperate trouble could believe that the

leak of a government document didn't some how originate with the Government. What a ridiculous thing to raise."

There was speculation among Tory MPs that the document was leaked by Downing Street to deflect attention from the row engulfing Mr Blair over ministerial links to lobbyists, such as Derek Draper.

Denying the charge, a Downing Street spokesman said: "This leak could only have been caused by someone wanting to damage the Government."

With both sides making counter claims, Ministry of Defence officials privately said the source of the leak "could be almost anybody".

The SDR document, a glossy brochure covering 57

pages, was printed in London and prior to release was sent to several centres around the country to inform MOD staff the moment it was published.

Mr Robertson apologised to the House and said he had launched "an immediate and thorough inquiry" into the leak.

The Liberal Democrat Defence spokesman, Menzies Campbell, told the Commons that the leaking of the document was "systematic in the sense that it was sent to a series of newspapers in a brown envelope".

He said: "Leaking in this way is an insult to this House and it is an insult to the men and women of the armed services whose jobs and whose future may depend upon the contents of the SDR."



"She sounds a little rough,  
Mrs. Tope."

## Pair jailed for stealing from public sports lobby

A ONCE trusted friend of the Duke of Edinburgh and one of the country's most powerful sports lobbyists was jailed for 18 months yesterday for stealing taxpayers' money.

Peter Lawson, general secretary of the publicly-funded Central Council of Physical Recreation, also took money which had been raised for Sir Stanley Matthews at an 80th birthday testimonial dinner, a court heard.

Lawson enjoyed a close working relationship with Prince Philip, the president of the CCPR, while secretly indulging in years of "wholesale dishonesty" with the help of his son Christopher, who received a two-year sentence.

A large slice of the money took from the organisation, which represents nearly 300 sporting bodies, was ploughed into private business interests, home improvements and foreign travel.

In what Judge Geoffrey Rivlin

said could do what you liked without challenge.

"That was because you were trusted, but it is hardly fair to blame the many eminent people in the sporting world who trusted you."

Turning to Christopher Lawson, 22, the CCPR's former senior development officer, the judge said that far from being led into dishonesty by his father, he had been a "very active and enthusiastic participant" in what went on.

"I have no doubt you conceived a good part of it yourself. You caused so many false invoices to be raised, you told so many lies, that it has indeed been difficult for the court to keep track of them. You were driving the fraudulent activities as hard as you could."

Peter Lawson, from Sidcup in Kent, who was convicted on Tuesday of two charges of conspiracy to defraud and four of offences of furnishing false information, was also disqual-

fied from being a company director for four years.

His son, also from Sidcup, who was banned for seven years, was found guilty of two offences of conspiracy to defraud, one of theft and six of furnishing false information.

During the two-month trial, the court heard that the Lawsons stole at least £80,000, but an investigation by the accountants KPMG revealed a £300,000 hole in CCPR's accounts.

Malcolm Denton, the CCPR's new general secretary, said later that the Lawsons had "betrayed" the sporting body. He said the "hard working and dedicated" volunteers who make up the organisation's executive committee "inevitably place great trust in the integrity and probity of its professional officers".

He added that since the men's dishonesty was discovered three years ago, control procedures had been reviewed and improved.

## Pharmacists sue artist Hirst

A FASHIONABLE restaurant owned by controversial artist Damien Hirst is to be prosecuted by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for using the name Pharmacy, it was announced yesterday.

The society, which represents and registers high-street chemists, said unauthorised use of "pharmacy" and "pharmacist" was illegal under the 1968 Medicines Act. A spokeswoman for the society, Susan Sharpe, said their concern was that members of the public could confuse the place with a real chemist and go there to seek medical advice.

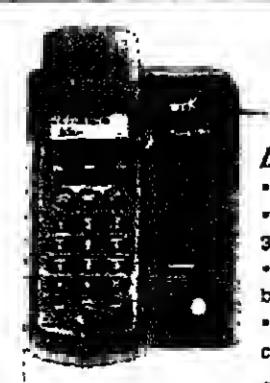
The restaurant in Notting Hill, west London, which was opened last January is a joint project between chef Marco Pierre White and Hirst, whose works of art have included pickled sheep and sharks and a cow and calf set in cabinets of formaldehyde.

As well as the sign outside, the restaurant displays medical bottles and pill packets in its windows. A spokesman for the restaurant said a list of all local 24-hour pharmacies was kept in case anyone needed it. Last March, the society's

council consulted the Department of Health on ways of forcing the owners to change the name, but Ms Sharpe said these discussions had not produced any alternative solution.

"The council's overriding concern is that members of the public can always be confident that, where they see the pharmacy sign, they can obtain a professional pharmacy service and *bona fide* medicines," she said. "Our efforts to persuade the owners of this business to respond to the public interest in this matter have so far failed."

The restaurant, owned by Hirst, multi-millionaire public



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من الأصل







# Crop experts linked to biotech firms

THE GOVERNMENT's advisers on genetically engineered crops should be sacked because too many have close links to the biotech industry, environmentalists said yesterday.

Friends of the Earth (FoE) said that 8 of the 13-strong Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (Acre) have ties with companies or organisations involved in carrying out crop trials or other genetic engineering research.

Members of Acre are the

BY LOUISE JURY

Government's statutory advisers on allowing genetically modified crops to be planted in the countryside. They have so far passed more than 150 applications without any refusals.

Although panel members do not vote on any application in which they have a personal interest, Adrian Bebb, FoE's food campaigner, said the process was flawed.

"How can people have con-

fidence in the government advisory panel when so many members have close financial links to the biotech industry?"

Three-quarters of the public

did not want genetically altered food, Mr Bebb said. Earlier this week English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers, asked for a moratorium on commercial production of engineered crops. "Yet the Government is still allowing this Frankenstein industry to drive ahead," he said.

FoE called for all members of Acre, including one representing green interests, to be sacked and a new panel appointed.

Among those on the panel are Professor Nigel Poole of Zeneca Plant Science, a biotech company, and Dr David Robinson, a scientist who also advises a seed company.

Dr Philip Dale heads a department that focuses on the genetic engineering of oilseed rape, according to the details

compiled by FoE from Acre members' declared interests.

Professor John Beringer, the chairman, is a member of the National Environmental Research Council, which has five test sites of its own. John Macleod heads the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, which is running seed trials. Dr Ingrid Williams works for the Institute of Arable Crop Research, which has three test sites.

Dr Ian Garland is an assistant director of research at

PPL Therapeutics, whose work led to the birth of Dolly the cloned sheep, and Professor David Onions is a consultant to a biotech company.

Professor Beringer said: "In 11 years as chairman, I have never once been subject to pressure either from industry or from politicians." He said the research council of which he is a member was carrying out research on the risks of genetic modification. He received no pecuniary advantages.

Professor Poole, an academic scientist before joining Zeneca, said it was insulting to accuse Acre's members of being biased. "There are scientists all the way round the world ... all reviewing the same sort of data and coming to the same sort of conclusions," he said.

Science took precedence over commercial interests, he added. "It is a very ethical and hard-working committee which tries to do its best."

A Department of the Envi-

ronment spokesman said there were no plans to change Acre. All members' interests were made public in its annual report.

Acre's current three-year term ends in June.

Guy Watson, an organic farmer from Devon, is seeking a judicial review at the High Court today over genetically engineered maize being grown next to his farm. He fears there is a risk of cross-pollination, which would jeopardise his land's organic status.

## I was betrayed by MoD, says Briton facing execution

"SOMETIMES I wake up in the night and feel as if I am trapped in a Monty Python sketch. But then I realise it's all for real and I am still in jail in Calcutta, as I have been for the past two and a half years."

Peter Bleach, a 46-year-old small-time arms dealer from North Yorkshire, is on trial in the "city of dreadful night", charged with "abetting the waging of war against India".

It is a very serious charge, comparable to treason. If he is found guilty, the minimum sentence is life imprisonment, while the maximum is death by hanging.

Mr Bleach was arrested in Bombay in December 1995 after the plane he was flying in, crewed by five Latvians who are on trial with him, had dropped a large consignment of arms into the countryside in Purulia, in northern India. The consignment included AK-47s, rocket launchers, anti-tank grenades and ammunition.

The weapons were supposedly intended for a cranky Hindu sect called Ananda Marg, which portrays itself as benign and humanistic, but which has been in dispute with the Communist government of West Bengal over land for many years. The organisation's key man in Europe, a

BY PETER POPHAM  
in Calcutta

shadowy figure known as "Kim Davy", has since gone to ground.

Mr Bleach has never denied that he was involved in the arms drop, but he is pleading not guilty. According to him, the arms drop was a sting that went wrong; he had informed the authorities long in advance that it was going to happen, and, far from being a criminal, he is himself the victim of official treachery.

Mr Bleach is a former officer in British intelligence who served in Belfast and Africa. After leaving the Army he set up what he calls a "defence supply service". A military intelligence officer has described him as "a international hit and bobs man" who "sailed too close to the wind".

According to Mr Bleach, the saga began in July 1995 when he was contacted by a Danish firm asking him for a quote to deliver four and a half tons of AK-47 rifles, ammunition and rocket-propelled grenades to an unknown destination in South Asia.

He flew to Copenhagen but soon realised, in his own words, that "it was anything but a legitimate arms deal. I had nothing to do with the records," he said.

My assumption was that the British would tell the Indian authorities right away. In fact, they didn't tell them until November [1995]," he told *The Independent*.

Mr Bleach realised going ahead with the deal was risky, but says there was no easy way out. "If I had dropped it like a hot potato and it had all come out in the open six months later, my phone and fax numbers would have been in the records," he said.

The last thing he meant to do, however, was to be on the plane when the arms were actually tossed out. "I had no intention of doing that," he said. "I went to Bulgaria as the agent for the sale of the plane - I had nothing to do with the

sale of the arms - but once there, 'Kim Davy' made it clear he was not letting me out of his sight until the job was done. I'm in Bulgaria. I haven't got winter clothes. I don't know anyone there - it's obvious I can't distance myself from

it until I am out of Bulgaria."

The trial finally got under way in March, but progress has been painfully slow. In the grim and shabby courtroom, with a concrete floor and flaking blue paint on the walls, the electric fans make so

much noise that the proceedings are practically inaudible.

In any case, half the time the proceedings are in Bengal. The Latvians are locked in a cage at the back like monkeys, where they grind their teeth in frustration. But Mr Bleach,

who is defending himself, cuts a cheery, good-humoured figure, tall and crisp in a white salar suit, laughing along with the rest of the court as witnesses tie themselves in knots.

At Independence, Indian judges renounced their gavels

Bikas Das



Peter Bleach emerges from Purulia magistrates' court, where judges ordered he be detained for another week.

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IND 5030

## New head of troubled special hospital is forced to leave

IN THE latest controversy to hit scandal-ridden Ashworth Special Hospital, its chief executive has left her post after "irretrievable" disagreements with her staff.

Dr Hilary Hodge had been at the hospital, which has been the subject of an inquiry into allegations of paedophilia and pornography, for less than 10 months. Her departure follows furious rows with the psychiatrist there, a dozen of whom threatened to resign if Dr Hodge did not leave.

They argued over management style and accused her of

consultants at the Merseyside Hospital. This is now finished, and Paul Lever, chairman of Ashworth Hospital Authority, said that it had been agreed that Dr Hodge should "step aside" from yesterday.

Dr Hodge, a former dentist, joined the hospital in September last year, seven months after the former Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, ordered a public inquiry into the running of the hospital's personality disorder unit. This followed allegations of possible paedophile activity involving a young girl, drug and alcohol

misuse, financial irregularities and the availability of pornography on the unit.

The claims were made by former Ashworth patient Stephen Daggett, who absconded while on an escorted shopping trip to Liverpool.

Yesterday's announcement was welcomed by consultant psychiatrists at Ashworth. Dr Patricia Abbott, acting chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee at Ashworth Hospital Authority, said it vindicated their position.

Dr Hodge will work for the World Health Organisation.

## 'Belt up in back' ads aim to shock

A GOVERNMENT campaign to get car passengers to "belt up in the back" was launched yesterday after figures showed that half those travelling in the rear do not wear seatbelts.

Some £750,000 has been spent on television, radio and poster adverts. The television commercial shows a schoolboy crushing his mother to death as he is propelled into the driver's seat after an accident. The last image is that of the blood-splattered teenager slumped in his seat. The advert was considered too strong for younger audiences and will not be shown during children's programmes.

Ministers say that a "no-nonsense" message was needed. Baroness Hayman, the roads minister, said: "When a crash occurs at 30mph an unpenalised notices were issued.

belted rear-seat passenger is thrown forward with a force of around three and half tonnes. Yet 120 unbelted back-seat passengers are killed each year."

The Government estimates that a further 40 front-seat passengers are killed by unbelted people being thrown forward in a crash.

Police said they would put "increased emphasis" on enforcing the law, which since 1991 has made it illegal not to wear a seatbelt in cars fitted with them. Officers can issue £20 fines to passengers not wearing their belt but many are simply cautioned. The law is often flouted - in 1996 153,000 fixed-penalty notices were issued.

## STEVE RICHARDS

"In a neat and sinister symmetry, the media obsessives in the Government now have their people who write for the newspapers"

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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# Abiola's death tears Nigeria apart

NIGERIA SEEMED to be slipping into an abyss of violence yesterday after the death on Tuesday of Moshood Abiola, the country's best known political prisoner and perceived winner of elections in 1993.

Nineteen people were reported to have been killed in clashes between police and protesters in Lagos, following the news of Abiola's death.

The Nigerian leader, Abdulsalam Abubakar, dissolved his cabinet, though the core of the ruling military junta was left intact.

The military administrator of Lagos state appealed for calm as police used tear gas to break up the protests. Stacks of old tyres were set alight on roads. The unrest also spread to the southern university town of Ibadan and to Abiola's home town, Abeokuta, north of Lagos.

Many Nigerians remain deeply sceptical about the circumstances of Abiola's death. "You who killed Abiola will pay for what you have done,"

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

crowds chanted yesterday as police fired shots in the air.

The 60-year-old suddenly became ill during a meeting with visiting United States diplomats, and died shortly afterwards. The death was officially said to be from a heart attack. It followed just weeks after the death of the military leader, General Sani Abacha, also from a reported heart attack.

General Abubakar, Abacha's successor, had appeared to herald a more liberal set of policies. The United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, met Abiola last week and announced that he was about to be freed. But Abiola's mysterious death destroyed much of the optimism of recent weeks.

Abiola's funeral was originally scheduled to take place yesterday, but was then postponed to allow an autopsy. His family said yesterday that independent autopsies will be carried out by pathologists

from Britain, Canada, and the US. The nominated British pathologist is Richard Shepherd, from St George's Hospital, London.

Tony Blair offered Abiola's son, Kola Abiola, "personal condolences and those of the British people following the untimely death of your father".

He hoped that the post-mortem examination would "allow your father the dignity in death that he was denied in the last years of his life."

The US special envoy to Nigeria, former ambassador Thomas Pickering, called yes-

terday for the "immediate" release of all political prisoners, as a condition for the lifting of sanctions. He called, too, for a "rapid, smooth, open, free and fair transition to civilian democratic rule".

A human rights group reported that it had warned the military regime of Abiola's failing health four weeks before his death. Mr Pickering said he had seen "no evidence that there was any reason to believe he had died of unnatural causes".

But his family appeared to disagree. Abiola's daughter, Wurum, said: "Of all the conditions he

had, heart was not one of them." Another daughter, Hafsat, said: "It was too convenient. All of a sudden at the eve of his release, he died."

Since the execution of the environmental activist and writer Ken Saro-Wiwa in 1995, Nigeria has been under strong international pressure to implement reforms. Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth and partial sanctions were imposed. General Abacha, however, was unbowed in the face of the international pressure. After his death there appeared to be some hope of

change. A number of political prisoners have been released in recent weeks and Abiola's allegedly proposed release would undoubtedly have eased the pressure further.

Western politicians have been eager to seize on signs that reform was on its way in a country where elections have frequently been promised and endlessly postponed. Nigeria has had only 10 years of civilian rule since independence was obtained from Britain in 1960.

The deal proposed by the authorities for Abiola's release was that he should renounce

his claim to be the rightful president. Opposition activists were unhappy that the West appeared ready to go along with those demands.

"For five years we pleaded, begged and cajoled the international community to take meaningful steps to secure the release of this man. They refused," Bolaji Akinwumi, spokesman for the Nadeco opposition coalition, said yesterday.

"I suppose we are now going to get crocodile tears being shed from London, from Washington, from Paris."

Opposition activists are pes-

simistic about the prospects for Nigeria now. Kayode Fayanmi, a leading opposition spokesman in London, said: "We suspect very much that this [disorder] is going to spread ... I am worried the government is going to manipulate it into civil war."

But Chief Emeka Anyaoku, secretary-general of the Commonwealth, said he had spoken to General Abubakar and was confident that he was "determined to usher in democracy". Mr Anyaoku said argued: "If this is not handled properly, Nigeria may be in for very severe trouble."



Nigerians angry at the death in prison of Moshood Abiola run from clashes with police in Lagos yesterday. Sixteen people died in the unrest

Seyllou Diallo/AFP

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## Big powers draw up peace deal for Kosovo

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

AS FIERCE new fighting was reported in Kosovo, the major powers abruptly changed tack last night and announced they would present both sides with a blueprint for a peace settlement in the Serbian province.

Details of the plan, discussed by senior officials of the six-nation Contact Group at a meeting in Bonn, were kept secret

— but the parameters are clear.

The Contact powers — Britain, the US, Germany, France, Italy and Russia — continue to rule out the full independence demanded by the Kosovo Albanians who account for 90 per cent of the population. They insist however that Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President, must grant wide autonomy to the province, where at least 300 people have been killed in fighting since February.

The two main options, one or other of which seems bound to form the basis of any solution,

the withdrawal of his security forces as the first step to a political settlement.

Now they seek merely a ceasefire, and recognise the KLA as an equal force to the elected Kosovo Albanian leader, Ibrahim Rugova, who also advocates independence, but by peaceful means. Yesterday's statement remarks on the "restraint" displayed by the Serbian forces, the nearest thing to praise they have received since the crisis erupted.

But huge obstacles remain. The KLA leadership is not united, and the influence of Mr Rugova, the Contact powers' preferred candidate, has been undermined by the KLA's recent military successes. Finally, there is the continuing violence. According to Albanian sources, Serb police killed at least five separatists yesterday in fighting near Morina, 50 miles south-west of Pristina.

## War criminals 'roam free'

BY NEDIM DERVISEGOVIC in Sarajevo

A NEW YORK-based human rights watchdog yesterday said the Bosnian Serb town of Foca lived in "fear and intimidation", and claimed war crimes suspects and alleged architects of "ethnic cleansing" were roaming freely there.

Human Rights Watch said six war criminals indicted by the United Nations tribunal for genocide lived in the town and that people believed to have orchestrated the murder and

expulsion of non-Serbs in the region still held government posts. Foca, 50 miles south-east of Sarajevo, had an ethnically mixed population of about 40,000 before the 1992-95 Bosnian war. The town became almost entirely Serb after at least 20,000 Muslims were killed or expelled early in the war.

The report said prominent

members of a "crisis committee", which co-ordinated arrests, detention, rape and murder of non-Serbs in Foca during the war, still held positions in both the Bosnian parliament and the Bosnian Serb government.

These include Petar Cancar, now Minister of Justice in Bosnia's Serb republic, and Veljko Ostojic, who chairs the Bosnian parliament's Commission on Human Rights.

## Stress floats away on the river

الدعاية



# Public Announcement

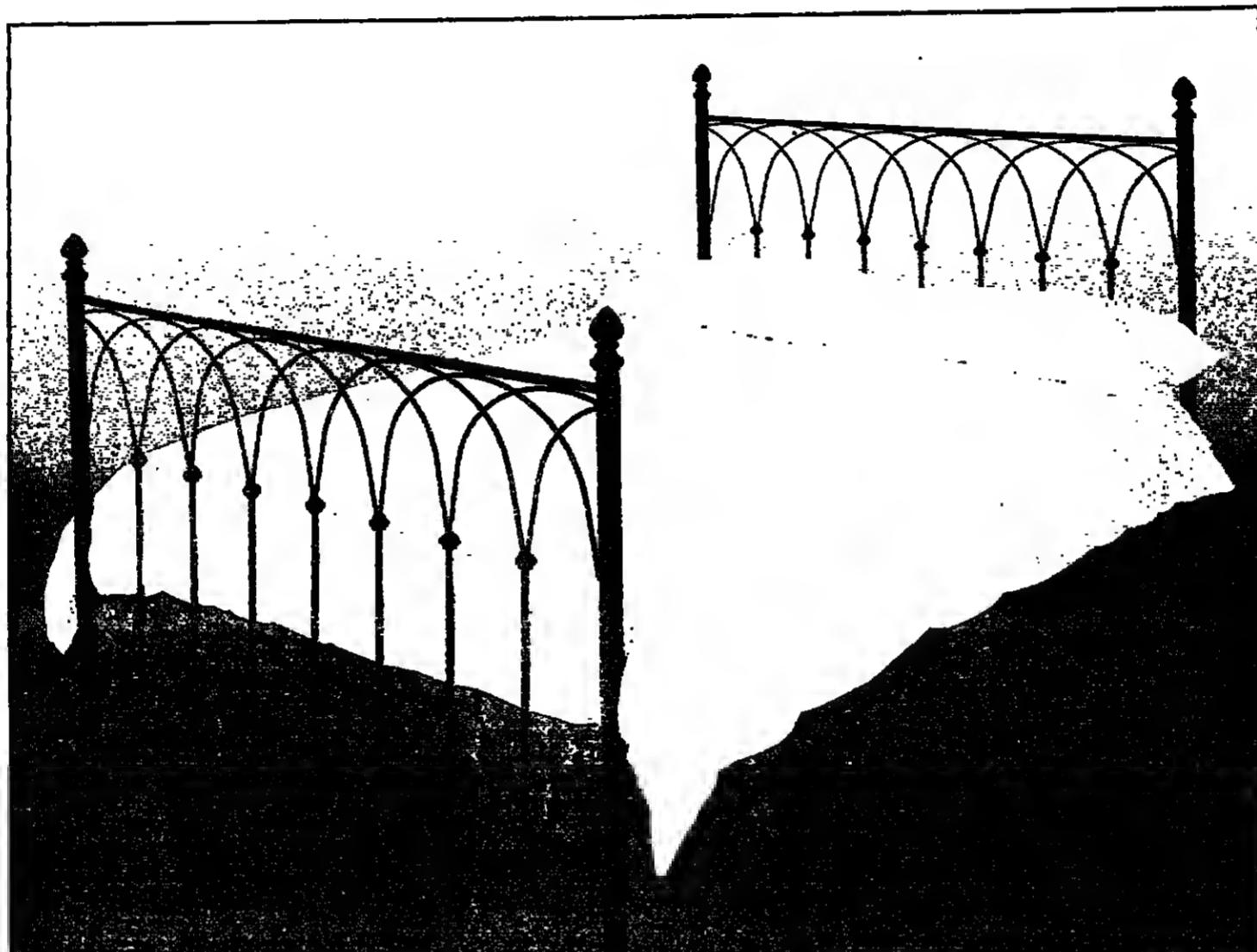
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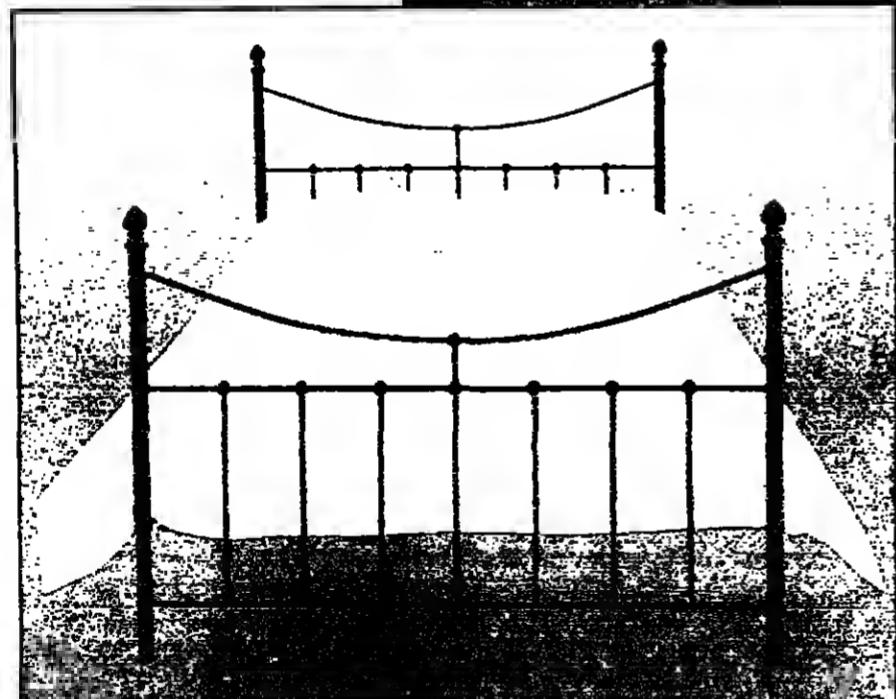
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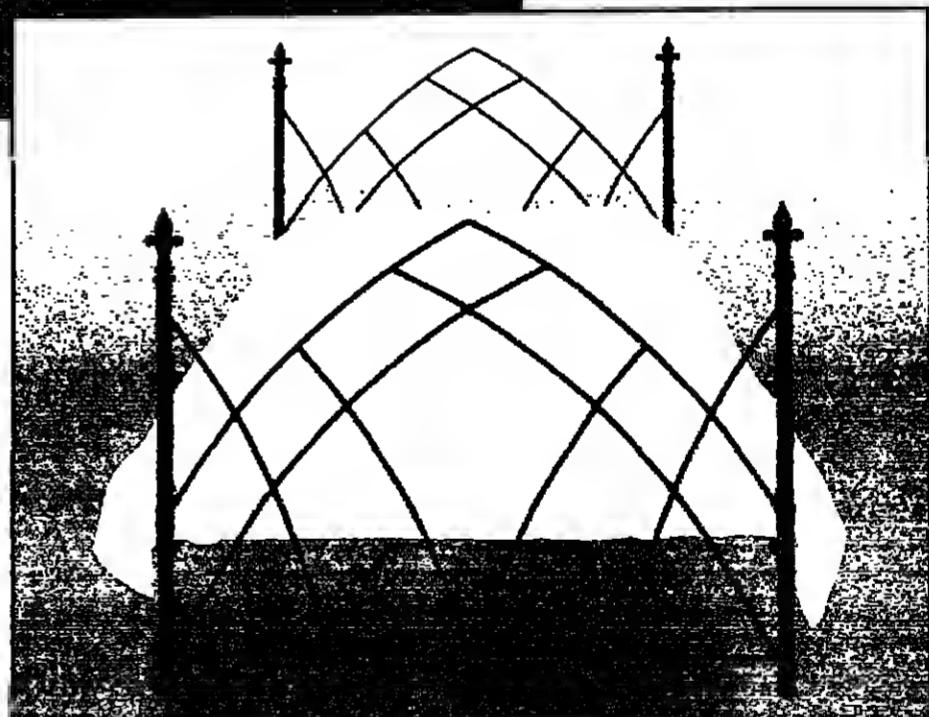


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# Assad prepares son to rule Syria

ON THE posters in Damascus, the legend is simple, "Basil, the Example; Bachar, the Future." But the message on the walls of the Syrian capital is now made manifest, as President Hafez Assad prepares the way for his son, Dr Bachar Assad, a British-trained ophthalmologist, to become his successor.

In advance of Bachar Assad's appointment as head of the Regional Command of the Baath Party - and full colonel in the Syrian army - President Assad has pensioned off his chief of staff and fired his head of intelligence. Basil Assad was the beloved son of the 78-year-old Syrian president, a genuinely popular horse-riding champion, who was chief of presidential security while running a powerful anti-corruption campaign within the regime.

In 1990, President Assad allowed himself to be called "Abu Basil" - father of Basil - a sure sign that the presidential man-

By ROBERT FISK  
in Beirut

He was supposed to fall upon the 31-year-old soldier.

In January 1994, driving his own Mercedes at speed through a log to Damascus Airport, Basil Assad collided with a motorway roundabout and died instantly.

Bachar, a more reticent and less public figure, was projected as a scientist rather than a soldier, fascinated by computer technology, he is head of Syria's computer science department. But by 1994, at the age of 24, he graduated as a captain at the Military Academy at Homs after a course as a tank battalion commander.

Within two months he was a major in the Presidential Guards, continuing his brother's campaign against corruption. By May of 1995, he was visiting President Elias Hrawi of Lebanon, where Syria keeps

22,000 troops, accompanied by two of Syria's top generals.

The way was cleared for Bachar in February when President Assad dismissed his wayward brother Rifaat from the vice-presidency. Rifaat Assad had ordered his T-72 tanks on to the streets of Damascus in 1984 after his brother had a heart attack. In full uniform, and accompanied only by Basil, Hafez Assad drove in his private car to confront the tanks. Rifaat's men left the streets and the Basil-Bachar dynasty was secured.

Officially, President Assad's successor is chosen through the constitution, but the army remains a frighteningly powerful institution. Last week, President Assad got rid of his allegedly corrupt head of civilian intelligence, Major-General Bashir Najjar, and retired 67-year-old General Hikmat Shehabi, who had been chief of staff for 24 years but who did not get on with Bachar.

General Shehabi has been replaced by General Ali Aslan, an interesting figure whose reticence has tended to obscure an important military career. In 1973, it was Aslan's Syrian 5th Division which almost recaptured the Golan heights from Israel by driving Israeli troops from the southern and central plateau.

Major-General Mahmoud Al Saqqa, who commanded the Syrian contingent to the Allies in the Gulf War, has been appointed to succeed Najjar.

The Syrian regime may, however, suffer from a sectarian divide. President Assad is an Alawi, as is Bachar. So are General Ali Aslan and General Ali Douba. General Shehabi, meanwhile, is a Sunni as is General Najjar, his successor. Major-General Al Saqqa, and the Defence Minister, General Mustafa Tlass. The regime's enemies will no doubt be working on that equation for years.



Support for Eta has declined since the murder of town councillor Miguel Angel Blanco a year ago

## Eta's founder calls for end to random attacks

BY ELIZABETH NASH  
in Bilbao

Eighties. "A few of us got together in the 1950s, mostly law and engineering students, to try to reconquer our Basque identity, and the symbols of our identity, including our language," he recalled.

Madariaga was jailed for the first time in 1961 following Eta's first operation. It was the sabotage of a train taking Franco's veterans to a rally in San Sebastian on the 25th anniversary of their invasion of the Basque country. "No-one was hurt, it was a symbolic act, but the reaction was savage."

With more than 100 comrades, Madariaga was jailed and tortured. "They strewed gravel on a cement floor and made you kneel in it." He rose from his old armchair and knelt on the rug. "And two or three of them piled on top of you. They broke my ribs."

He was freed a year later, beginning a career of exile and clandestine activity interspersed with hunger strikes and jail terms in southern France, a region he calls Iparralde (northern Basque country).

During the Sixties he tried unsuccessfully to obtain train-

ing and supplies from the Algerians, fresh from the successful struggle for independence with France. "But they were more interested in trading with Spain and France, so they handed over us Eta to the French."

Mr Madariaga says Eta was wrong to kidnap and kill the conservative local politician Miguel Angel Blanco a year ago.

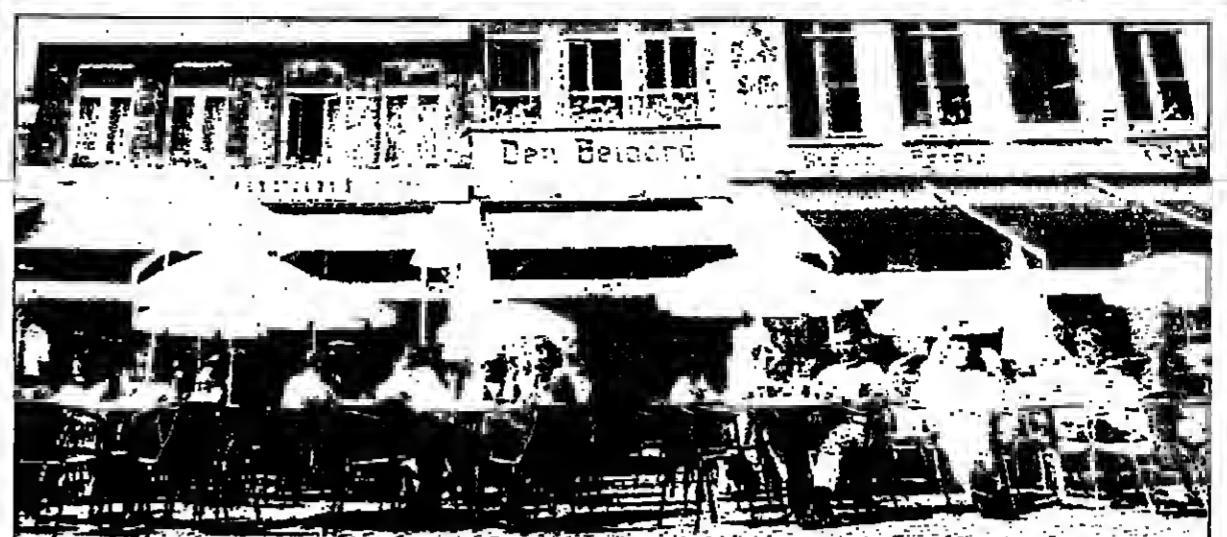
The subsequent murder of the young councillor from the Basque village of Ermua brought millions of Spaniards on to the streets showing their revulsion against Eta in the biggest demonstrations that the country has seen.

"It's possible that it may be necessary to kill someone like Miguel Angel Blanco," Mr Madariaga says. "The question is does it improve or damage our prospects for success? I think actions like this harm our struggle. The military strategy is still valid, but not with these targets."

He remains passionate about the cause of Basque independence and freedom but says Eta has become more and more remote from the people it supposedly represents.

"It has lost touch with its bases and with the popular will." It should call a truce and seek talks with the government in Madrid - which he calls "the Spanish state". His appeal has so far elicited no response.

جبل في USD



The language conflict in Belgium can cause a problem even when asking for a beer

Frank Spooner

## Battles with red tape leave village tongue-tied

FRONTLINE  
RHODE-SAINT-GENESE  
BELGIUM



A SLEEPIER, more tranquil spot on the periphery of Brussels it would be hard to find. The large white villas and tall trees tell you this is one of the affluent south-city boroughs to which Eurocrats and moneyed American expats have migrated in big numbers.

The village is unpretentious - a church, a few shops and a police station. On the terrace in front of the Rodea Taverne locals sip Trappist beer, enjoying the summer evening sun and the hulic setting.

You could not imagine anyone wanting to disrupt the serene ordinariness. Only the daubed white paint on the sign as you enter the village hints that you have stumbled on a dividing line in the enduring conflict between Belgium's Flemish and French speakers.

The sign saying "Rhode-Saint-Genese" has been messily painted over leaving "Sint-Genesius-Rode", the placename Flemings use. At the entrance to the public library the words "Bibliotheque publique communale" have been effaced, leaving "Gemeentelijke Openbare Bibliotheek".

Sint-Genesius-Rode is on the Flemish side of the linguistic frontier drawn through the map of Belgium in 1962, but it is also one of six "facility communes", boroughs edging the capital which have become the battleground in the latest outbreak of linguistic strife.

In a compromise hammered out when Belgium was officially split into administratively separate linguistic communities, all the official business of Sint-Genesius-Rode (population 18,000) is conducted in Flemish.

But French speakers (formerly in the minority) have an automatic right to services in French.

Myriam Delacroix-Rolin, the bilingual mayor, prepares the paperwork for civil

marriages in Flemish but if people ask she conducts the ceremony in French.

Three months ago, Ms Delacroix-Rolin was issued a circular by the Flemish regional authority. She was to strip away French-speakers' rights.

Brides would have to say "I do" in Flemish; likewise anybody filing a tax return or looking for a dog licence or planning permission. If they understood no Flemish they would have to apply separately in writing to be granted an exemption, not once, but on each individual occasion. In the event of a dispute, only the Flemish version of a document would hold up in court.

The council voted to disobey the edict because of the cost and time-wasting, not to mention inconvenience for much of the local population.

Now, every month when Ms Delacroix-Rolin sits down to chair a council meeting, the noise starts. Unnamed people she calls "the extremists"

gather outside, shouting slogans to drown out the meeting. "They are not even from this locality," she says. "They come in coaches and cars."

A new police chief is needed. But every time Ms Delacroix-Rolin sends in the form the Flemish regional authorities send it back on a technicality.

A Walloon headteacher at a local school has been asked to give back two years' salary because it was found that his Dutch language degree was not the one stipulated for headteachers. Ms Delacroix-Rolin says, be is overqualified and speaks better Dutch than required.

The Flemish say they need to protect their language as French speakers fan out from Brussels, an officially bilingual enclave in Flanders) demanding their own schools and libraries. Ms Delacroix-Rolin calls it ethnic cleansing. "It's part of a strategy to make people feel disgruntled, to feel that the area is badly run so they will stop electing French speakers to the council and eventually be forced to move out."

Linguistic rows still engulf everything from football to the national entry in the Eurovision song contest. Arts groups and film makers find their funding cut of mid flow when somebody on one side or other thinks they have been neglected.

Rhode-Saint-Genese is a microcosm of Belgium, where complex power-sharing structures have kept open conflict at bay but seem to have perpetuated the divisions.

Ms Delacroix-Rolin is convinced Flemish and French speakers can get along if left alone. "Before all this," she says, "if somebody had a problem reading an official form we would say come in and we'll go through it together in French. Both sides are becoming less tolerant."

KATHERINE BUTLER

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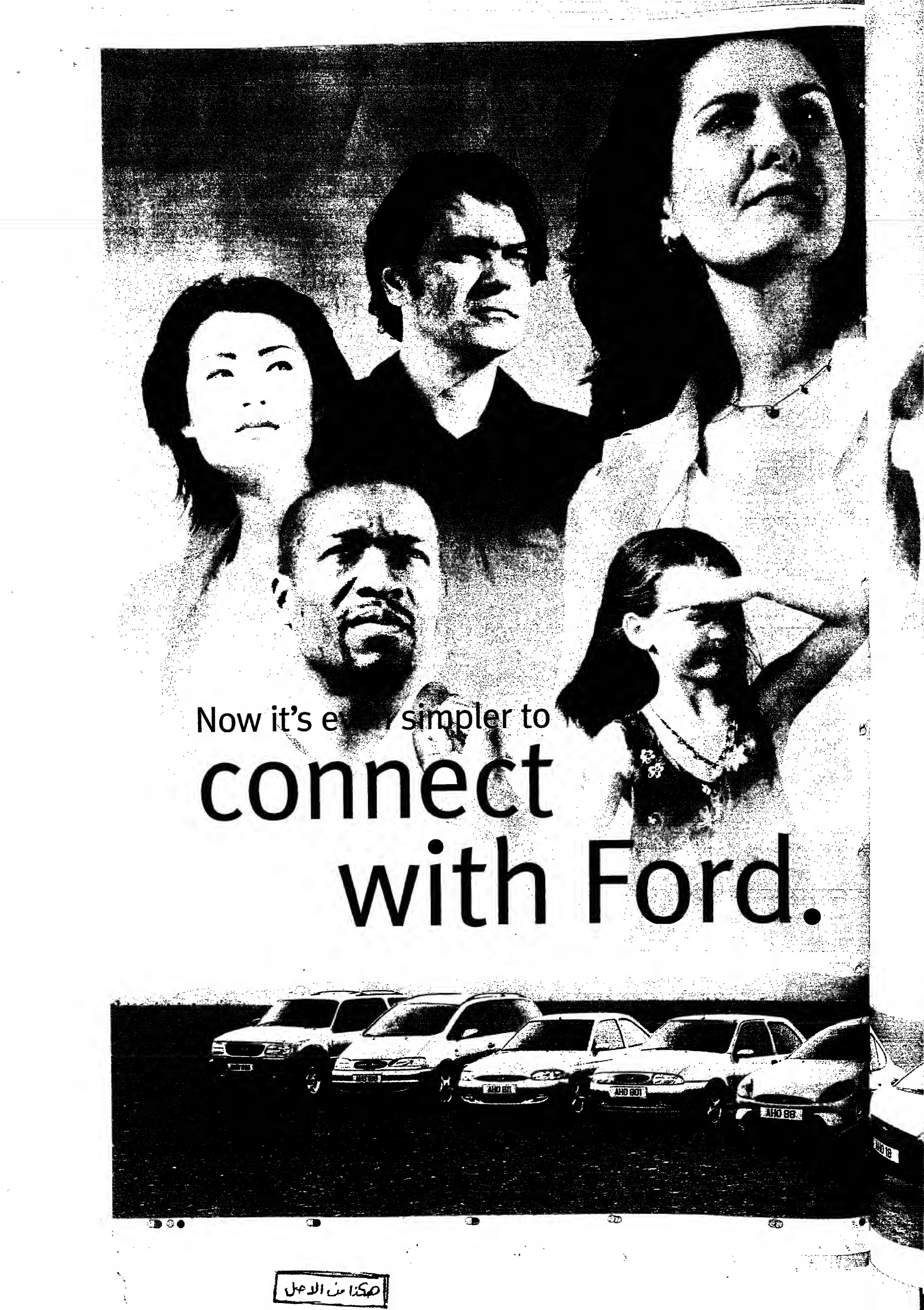
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# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### FI Group staff share £4m bonus

EMPLOYEES and management at FI Group, the computer services group, shared £4m in profit-related pay last year as the company beat all its profit targets. David Best, FT's finance director said yesterday it had set aside £4m to fund the profit-sharing scheme compared with £1.2m in the previous year. However, the extra bonuses did not stop FI from reporting a record pre-tax profits of £10.7m, up 62 per cent on the previous year. The company is planning a five-for-one bonus issue which will make its shares more easily tradeable. The shares jumped 115p to 1830p.

Investment column, page 23

### S&N pours £15m into Germany

  
SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE, the UK's largest brewer, is set to spend £15m to expand its German pub operations. The company, led by chief executive Brian Stewart, plans to develop up to 30 pubs and restaurants in the North of the country in partnership with Citrus, a privately owned German leisure group. Scottish & Newcastle's presence in Germany has so far been limited to two Australian-themed bars, called Cafe Oz.

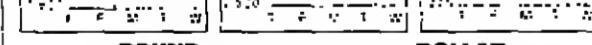
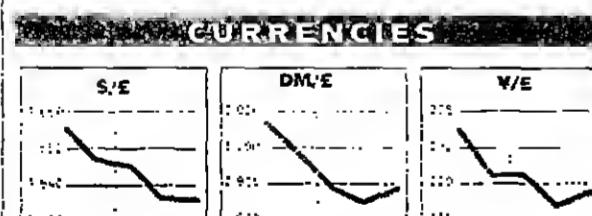
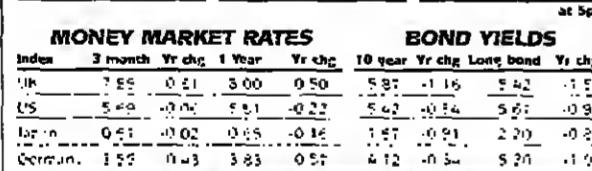
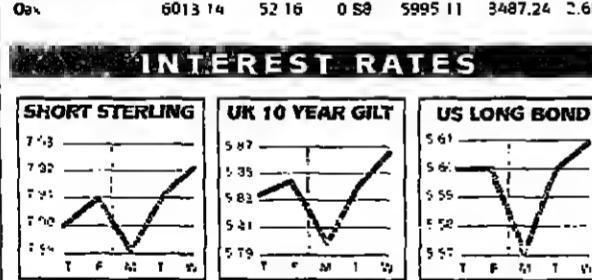
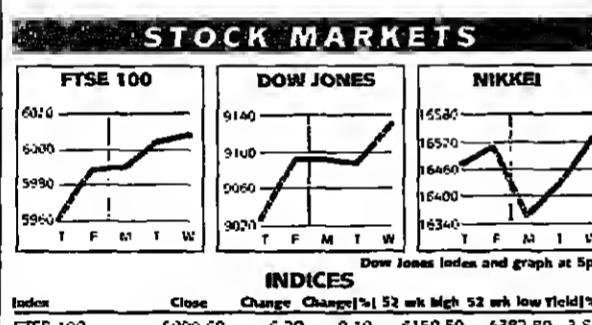
The company wants to increase its international presence to capitalise on its Europe-wide distribution rights for Foster's, the best-selling Australian lager.

Yesterday shares in the group behind Newcastle Brown Ale and John Smith's bitter soared 4.6 per cent to 813 pence after it reported a 13 per cent increase in profits to £422m and issued an upbeat trading statement.

Investment Column, page 23

### Trackers outperform

FUND MANAGERS which imitate movements in the FTSE 100 and FT AllShare indices have sharply outperformed rivals who try to pick the best stocks over the last 10 years, according to a survey by Barclays Global Investors. The survey showed index managers had outperformed active managers by up to 1.7 percentage points over the last 10 years. It estimates tracker funds save investors up to £1bn a year - the equivalent of 14 Millennium Domes.



Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Next Rpt
Gold (oz)	11.70	0.35	16.45			
Gold (\$)	192.35	-2.40	119.85			
Silver (\$)	5.55	-0.01	4.15			

[www.bloomberg.com/uk](http://www.bloomberg.com/uk)

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

### TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.589	Mexican Peso (\$)	13.30
Austria (schillings)	20.30	Netherlands (guilder)	5.5550
Belgium (francs)	59.68	New Zealand (\$)	3.0122
Canada (\$)	2.3536	Norway (krone)	12.32
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8435	Portugal (escudos)	290.35
Denmark (krone)	11.07	Saudi Arabia (riyal)	5.9755
Finland (markka)	8.8359	Singapore (\$)	2.6397
France (francs)	9.6742	Spain (pesetas)	294.26
Germany (marks)	2.8972	South Africa (rand)	9.7158
Greece (drachma)	482.63	Sweden (krona)	12.92
Hong Kong (\$)	12.32	Switzerland (francs)	2.4407
Ireland (pounds)	1.1453	Thailand (baht)	60.75
Indian (rupees)	64.15	Turkey (lira)	424.528
Israel (shekels)	5.5618	USA (\$)	1.6015
Iraq (lek)	3558		
Japan (yen)	222.85		
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.4787		
Malta (lira)	0.6257		

Thomas Cook

## Inflationary signs are ominous, says survey

INFLATIONARY signals in the UK remain "ominous", according to a survey published on the eve of the Bank of England's interest rate decision, despite growing evidence of declining output.

Recent evidence of strong average earnings growth and rising inflation has prompted fears that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will today announce an

by LEA PATERSON

increase in interest rates. Another rate hike would be "most unwelcome", according to the head of the UK's engineering trade body who yesterday became the latest industry figure to call for a rate freeze.

Graham Mackenzie, director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF),

warned that the sector was heading for recession and said that his association's latest quarterly survey was the worst since the survey began in 1994. Export and domestic orders and employment in the sector are all falling, the EEF said.

Announcing the results of the survey, Mr Mackenzie commented: "The engineering industry is under severe and mounting pressure. Any increase in interest rates would

run the risk of spreading the recessionary trends already evident in manufacturing."

A separate survey by BDO Stoy Hayward and the Centre for Economic and Business Research (CEBR) found that there was a slight uptick in UK inflation last month. Douglas McWilliams, chief executive of the CEBR, said: "The high interest rate policy is hurting but not yet working."

According to the BDO/CEBR survey, wage pressures were the main cause of the slight increase in the BDO inflation index last month. The rate of earnings growth in the UK is of particular concern to the MPC, and both the Bank of England and the Government have appealed for wage restraint.

The EEF survey revealed evidence of slowing wage growth in engineering, although econ-

omists were unconvinced that the survey would tip the balance in favour of a rate freeze.

Julian Jessop at Nikko Europa said: "The decision is really too close to call." And Ciaran Barr at Deutsche Bank said: "I think [the MPC] will probably hold fire for another month ... and assess the inflation report [due out in August]."

The MPC's decision is due at

midday

## Retail warning on plans for new cards

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

PLANS to roll out a new generation of all-purpose cash and credit cards using sophisticated microchips instead of the traditional magnetic stripe were thrown into confusion yesterday after the British Retail Consortium, which represents 290,000 shops handling 90 per cent of the UK trade, said its members are not ready to participate in the national launch of the chip cards.

Earlier, the Association of Payments Clearing Services (Apacs) had unilaterally announced that the cards would be launched nationally early next year, following successful trials in Northampton and Dumfries.

The major advantage of the new cards is the increased security they will provide against the growing counterfeit problem, which cost the UK banking industry alone £20.3m last year: an increase of 53 per cent on the 1996 figure.

"Chip cards will enhance the security and, over time, the range of services available to cardholders," Chris Pearson, the chief executive of Apacs, said yesterday. Alun Michael, the Home Office minister, also welcomed the initiative.

It will require the replacement of the 104 million plastic cards already in use in the UK, and the upgrading of 23,200 cash dispensers, which will start later this year. The upgrading of more than 520,000 retail terminals will begin early next year.

The new generation of cards will for the time being retain the magnetic stripe, and existing methods of identifying cardholders - signatures in shops and PIN numbers at cash machines - will stay the same, Apacs said.

But in a letter to Apacs, following the announcement, the BRC said that the trials had been very limited and many technical and operational issues remain unresolved. Nor has there been any dialogue on commercial issues, including the costs of introducing the cards, and who would bear those costs.

"These must now be discussed and resolved if we are to progress matters further ... The introduction of chip cards will be a costly exercise and the financial implications and benefits to retailers and their customers have still to be addressed," the BRC said.

Larger retailers who are members of the BRC have their own electronic point-of-sale and swipe-card systems which they can continue to operate. But there was concern yesterday for many thousands of smaller retailers who rent their equipment from the banks and who would find it difficult to resist the Apacs initiative.

## BA alliance 'will send fares soaring'

BY MICHAEL HARRISON  
IN LONDON  
AND KATHERINE BUTLER  
IN BRUSSELS

RIVAL AIRLINES and consumer groups warned yesterday that transatlantic air fares could rise by as much as 50 per cent after British Airways and American Airlines were given the conditional go-ahead to take the world's biggest airline alliance.

Although regulators in London and Brussels laid down stiff conditions, insisting that in exchange for approval, the partners surrender the equivalent of half their transatlantic slots at Heathrow and Gatwick, the Consumers Association and other airlines attacked the deal.

Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic described the conditions as "woefully inadequate" and said air fares could rise by 10-50 per cent because of the alliance's domination of key transatlantic routes. The Consumers Association warned of a similar hike in fares, while Delta Air Lines also criticised the conditions for not going far enough and short changing consumers.

But Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, described the conditions as "too harsh", saying they would unfairly penalise the airline and British interests.

Mr Ayling said BA objected to being told to give up slots for free. "We have these rights and if we are asked to give them up, we should be compensated.

It would be inconsistent with previous decisions by the EC to force us to give up valuable rights without that,"

ed during a 30-day consultation period announced by Mrs Beckett and he stopped short of saying they were a "deal breaker".

British Midland, which has announced plans to serve up to ten US destinations, including Miami and Chicago, welcomed the conditions laid down by Mr Van Miert. But the rival US carrier Delta Air Lines criticised them for not going far enough.

The alliance will dominate transatlantic air services, accounting for 40 per cent of the market and 100 per cent of passengers on some routes, such as Gatwick-Dallas. The 26 slots they have been told to surrender - 220 at Heathrow and the remainder at Gatwick - represents a compromise between the original demands of the UK and EU authorities.

The Office of Fair Trading initially recommended the surrender of 168 slots (although this was increased to 210 slots in unpublished confidential guidance given by the OFT to ministers last September). Mr Van Miert, meanwhile, initially called for the two airlines to give

up a total of 353 slots.

The alliance has still to be approved by the US Department of Transportation. Even

assuming that is forthcoming this September, BA and American Airlines would not be able to launch the alliance until next summer, possibly autumn - more than three years after it was first unveiled.

Mr Ayling said BA objected to being told to give up slots for free. "We have these rights and if we are asked to give them up, we should be compensated. It would be inconsistent with previous decisions by the EC to force us to give up valuable rights without that,"

In Brussels, Mr Van Miert said: "This is not the end of the procedure, but it is a milestone. The Commission has welcomed the framework now."

He made it clear also that the number of slots to be surrendered was not negotiable, that auctioning slots is illegal, and that he expects BA and AA to start the handing over as soon as rivals request it.

Outlook, page 19

## Brussels clears merger of US telecoms groups

BY PETER THU LARSEN

THE European Commission yesterday took the long-awaited

# Van Miert gets his slots about right

THREE THINGS in life are certain. One is death, another is taxes and the third is that British Airways would object to the curbs imposed on its alliance with American Airlines by the European Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert.

BA's howls of protest were no less predictable, however than the barrage of complaints and dire prognostications from rival airlines that greeted the widely-trailled set of conditions. If BA's Bob Ayling thinks they are "too harsh" and Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic reckons they are "totally inadequate" then the regulators in Brussels might reasonably conclude they have come up with a workable compromise.

Mr Van Miert and his opposite numbers in London have travelled a long way in converging directions since they first cast their eyes over the BA-IA alliance all those years ago. In fact it is only two, but such has been the glacial process of approval that it has occasionally tested the will to live.

Along the way we have all become anoraks - versed in the terminology of slot allocation, city-pairs and route scheduling.

Mr Van Miert initially wanted BA-



## OUTLOOK

AA to surrender 353 slots (the right to take-off and land) at Heathrow and carve out a number of routes from the alliance altogether.

The Office of Fair Trading opted for a more modest surrender of 168 slots, spread over a leisurely time period with an option that some of them could be leased by the alliance partners. Now Mr Van Miert has modified his demand to 267 slots, to be surrendered without compensation as soon as the alliance is formally launched. The competition authorities in London have puffed up their chests and agreed to go along with the revised conditions.

And yet the saga is still not over.

With a delight bordering on the

sadistic, Mr Ayling says he still expects the conditions laid down by Brussels to be changed after a suitable consultation period. Virgin, meanwhile, warns in the most dispiriting of terms that this is merely the end of the beginning and speaks of "a considerable period of negotiation ahead in Brussels, London and the US".

With a following wind, the alliance might just have all the necessary regulatory approvals by the end of the year. But don't get too excited about the prospect of fare cuts (or fare increases depending on whose propaganda you believe) because even then the alliance will not be airborne until the autumn of next year. Let's hope it's worth the wait.

## Buyout mania gets out of hand

INSTITUTIONAL investors have a dilemma. They are sitting on mounds of spare cash but don't want to invest in the stock market. But while they keep it as cash, it drags down their performance figures. What can they do?

The venture capital industry has an answer. Give the cash to us, they

say, and we'll find some lucrative management buyouts to make your money grow. To persuade fund managers they brandish performance figures showing that earlier funds have produced annual returns of 25 per cent or more - better than anyone could hope for from the stock market.

And this does indeed persuade the fund managers. Yesterday CVC Capital Partners, a private equity group, announced it had raised a \$3.1bn (£2.0bn) European buy-out fund - the largest to date. In the past year or so, venture capital groups including Doughty Hanson, Canover and Charterhouse have all raised funds worth £1bn.

This cash is all chasing the same type of deal. To have a hope of investing a fund that size, venture capitalists can't consider anything smaller than about £50m. Deals that size don't come along too often, so when they do an auction ensues and someone ends up overpaying.

So venture capitalists are getting creative. They are looking to continental Europe, where the culture of shareholder value and managers enriching themselves is only just catching on. They are also backing private acquisition vehicles which have been

set up to consolidate fragmented industries. Most importantly, they are loading their deals up with ever greater quantities of debt from the bond markets so as to achieve the desired return on equity.

Even so the going continues to get tougher. At least one of the recently raised funds has gone twelve months without investing a penny. The others are praying there'll be no recession or stock market crash, which would prevent them from getting out at a profit after three years.

The stark truth is that the venture capital industry's past performance was built not on the brilliance of the managers but the twin booms of economic recovery and rising stock markets. Don't bet on the trick being repeated.

## Chancellor pulls defence punches

THERE NOW. That's not too bad is it? The 3 per cent real cut in the defence budget over the next three years outlined in yesterday's Strategic Defence Review is a mere flea bite compared to what it could have been. Having been led to expect much worse, the chiefs of staff

were positively cooing with delight - lots of new toys for the boys and the chance to go hopping around the world like some kind of mercenary force from one crisis to the next. Just what the doctor ordered.

The limited size of the proposed cuts should also give the City rather more faith in the Government's overall spending targets than it has had to date, since it was widely assumed the defence budget would be much more seriously raided to fund priority spending on health, education and law and order. A deep cut to fund a steep rise would not have been regarded as credible; to spend is easy to economise is much more difficult.

All the same, even a cut of just 3 per cent is hard enough to achieve. The Defence Review is alarmingly short of detail on how it is to be realised. Three broad categories are identified. First, there will be savings on personnel. Second, costs will be reduced by having the three services act more as a unified whole, rather than separately, as they do at the moment. And third, there will be savings on procurement.

All this is eerily reminiscent of those consolidating merger proposals we read about all the time

these days, which investors are seduced into backing with mouth watering promises of their potential for cost cutting. Rarely does anyone ever go back to check the savings have been achieved. More rarely still do companies actually achieve them. In the public sector, such cuts are more difficult still.

Even so, the target for defence cuts might have been a lot higher and if it had been it would have been a good deal less credible. The flip side is that the Chancellor now has less to give away to the other spending departments of health, education, transport and the home office than he would have liked. We'll know more about those plans next week.

Any minister hoping for a bonanza can forget it. Defence is one of the larger spending departments with a budget this year of £22.2bn, but it is dwarfed by health and social security. A 3 per cent cut in the defence budget equates to a rise of just 1.7 per cent in the national health service budget. No wonder Gordon Brown has been forced to belie his description as the "iron Chancellor" with his overall cap on growth in public spending, which at 2.75 per cent a year real, has been set much higher than anyone anticipated.

News Analysis: The Services, rather than procurement, will bear the brunt of defence spending cuts

## Arms firms gear up for bonanza

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

ARMS manufacturers were quietly celebrating yesterday after the Government's strategic defence review confirmed that the procurement programme would remain intact at the expense of cuts in service personnel and regiments.

The UK defence industry has had a torrid time since the end of the Cold War robbed it of much of its traditional customer base. Employment in the industry has fallen by 300,000 to 415,000 since 1980, while the procurement budget has been chopped back by 25 per cent. The only thing that has spared the sector from worse has been the rise in export business, which now accounts for nearly 40 per cent of output. Total UK defence sales last year were £1.4bn, of which exports made up £550m.

Set against this backdrop, the strategic review makes heartening reading. Although defence spending will fall by £900m in real terms by 2002, this will be achieved largely by reductions in personnel numbers and more efficient running of the procurement budget.

The Army's eight tank regiments will be condensed into six, 2,500 British troops will return from Germany and the Territorial Army will be trimmed from 56,000 to 40,000.

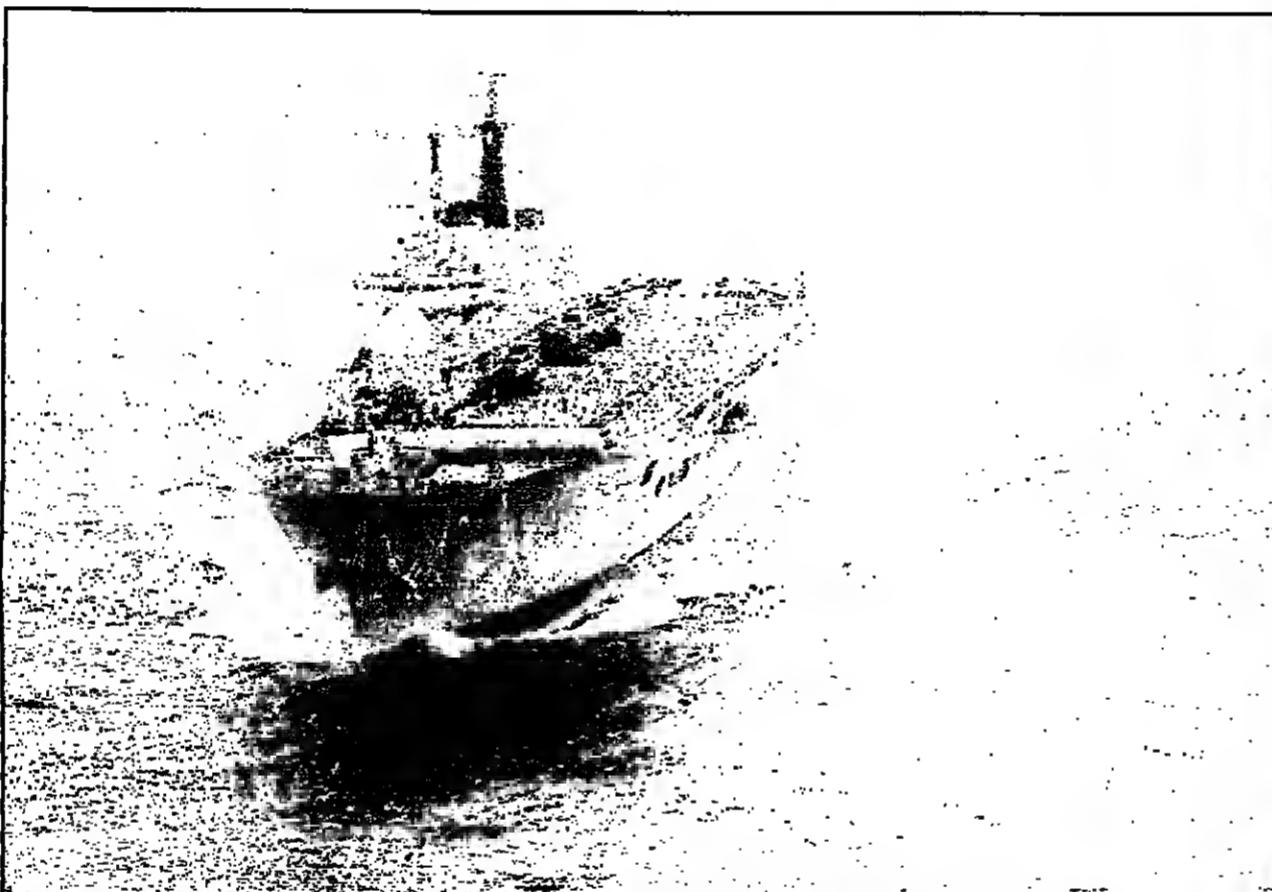
The good news for defence manufacturers is that Britain's smaller but more mobile armoured forces will enjoy greater "punch" as a result of a range of equipment programmes.

The Ministry of Defence's shopping list includes two new large aircraft carriers, expected to cost £5bn, four roll-on/roll-off container ships and four new large military aircraft. The RAF will go ahead with a production order for 222 Eurofighters, while the number of minesweepers will rise from 22 to 25.

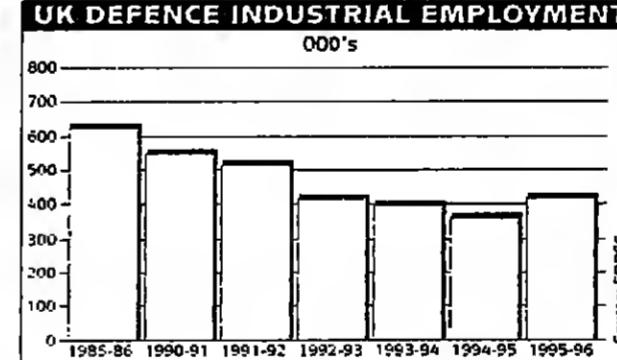
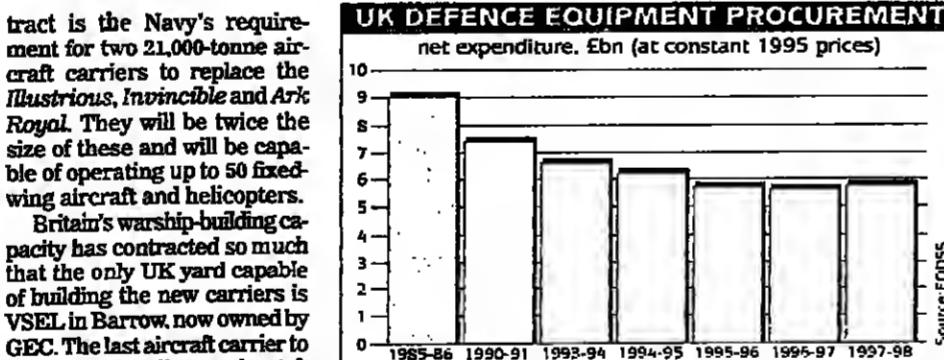
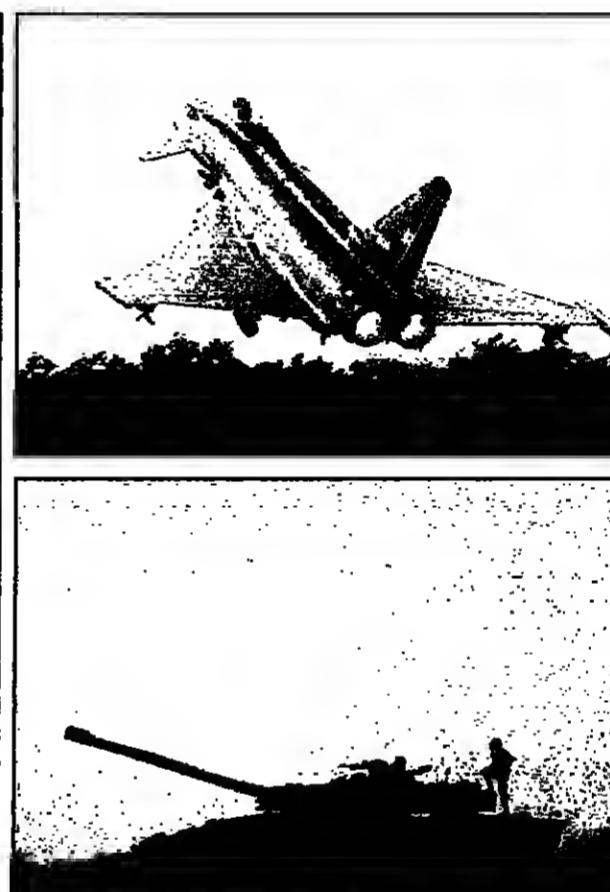
On the debit side, the Navy's surface fleet of destroyers and frigates will fall from 35 to 32 and the number of nuclear attack submarines will go down from 12 to 10. The RAF will lose 23 offensive support and 13 air defence aircraft.

Alan Sharman, director general of the Defence Manufacturers Association, said: "From the industry's point of view the strategic review is not a bad outcome. The MoD consulted widely from the start and we were invited to form a partnership with the armed forces. Now the industry will take part in the implementation of the review."

The plumb procurement con-



Two large carriers will replace the present three, including the 'Ark Royal' (above); the Eurofighter (bottom right) order goes ahead, but tank regiments are reduced



tract is the Navy's requirement for two 21,000-tonne aircraft carriers to replace the *Illustrious*, *Invincible* and *Ark Royal*. They will be twice the size of these and will be capable of operating up to 50 fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

Britain's warship-building capacity has contracted so much that the only UK yard capable of building the new carriers is VSEL at Barrow, now owned by GEC. The last aircraft carrier to roll down the slipway, the *Ark Royal*, was built at Barrow.

In order to turn the contract into a competitive tender, the MoD could invite bids from foreign yards. What it is more likely to do, however, is put the prime contractorship out to contract while leaving the building of the vessels to VSEL. This would enable it to attract several UK bids.

This approach has been adopted in the past. Although Barrow is building the latest batch of three Trafalgar hunter killer submarines, the prime contractorship was awarded to GEC Marconi prior to its takeover of VSEL.

The Royal Navy will also get four new large transporters - probably the giant C-17 aircraft from the US. But the MoD is also considering a replacement

for its elderly Hercules transporters for which the Future Large Aircraft programme, being run by the Airbus consortium, is a contender.

The review also heralds a marked change in the way in which the procurement programme will be run in future. The MoD's procurement executive will become an agency and will adopt what are known as "smart procurement" techniques designed to cut down the long time lag between the requirement being identified and the equipment entering service.

The review also confirms that Britain will proceed with the £20bn Eurofighter programme equipped with new missiles such as the BVRAAM - Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile - the Brimstone advanced anti-armour missile and the Storm Shadow stand-off air-to-surface long-range cruise missile.

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for its elderly Hercules transporters for which the Future Large Aircraft programme, being run by the Airbus consortium, is a contender.

The aim of the overhaul will be to create a "single customer" for each piece of military hardware, be it a tank, a fighter aircraft or a new frigate. What we hope will emerge is a much more streamlined and focused organisation with one project team managing a procurement programme from its inception to entering service," said Mr Sharman.

British Aerospace, which will be the main beneficiary of the £30bn Eurofighter programme, also welcomed the planned streamlining of procurement.

At present defence suppliers have to deal with a host of different departments within the MoD, starting with the operational requirements staff, then the procurement executive and finally the in-service managers.

John Weston, BAe's chief executive, said: "This will lead to greater stability in the defence industry, which will be better able to plan its investments and organisational

structures to respond to future MoD requirements."

In the longer term the defence industry is looking to benefit as more support and maintenance services presently supplied by the MoD are put out to tender.

Mr Sharman predicted that the biggest winners from the procurement budget would be suppliers of systems, software and electronic warfare equipment.

"As the number of platform builders reduces, these are the areas that will thrive," he added.

It is an area of expertise that GEC Marconi has decided to focus on the extent that it is prepared to consider disposing of "platform providers" such as VSEL and Yarrow altogether in the long run.



Surface ship fleet cut from 35 to 33

Minesweeper fleet cut from 25 to 22

Trident nuclear warhead arsenal reduced from 300 to 200

RAF to lose 23 support and 13 air defence aircraft

... and what's out

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What's in the procurement programme ...

Two new 21,000-tonne aircraft carriers

Four new Ro-Ro container ships

Four extra RAF transporters

Production order for 23 Eurofighter aircraft

Up to 12 new generation frigates

... and what's out

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RAF to lose 23 support and 13 air defence aircraft

What's in the procurement programme ...

Two new 21,000-tonne aircraft carriers

Four new Ro-Ro container ships

Four extra RAF transporters

Production order for 23 Eurofighter aircraft

Up to 12 new generation frigates

... and what's out

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## Dixons to open 100 new stores

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

DIXONS, the electrical retailer, is to create 2,000 jobs over the next year as it opens 100 new stores in its Dixons, Currys, PC World and The Link formats.

The news came as the company reported better-than-expected trading figures which sparked a 12 per cent rise in Dixons' shares, which closed up higher at 547p.

The City was relieved by Dixons' report on current trading, although same-store sales in the first nine weeks of the current year were 10 per cent lower than last year. Figures in the previous period were artificially boosted by spending of building society windfalls.

John Clare, the chief executive, said the economic outlook was uncertain, but the group had been less affected by the downturn in consumer spending than other retailers of higher-ticket items such as MFI, Carpetright and DFS Furniture.

He conceded that higher interest rates were making life tougher on the high street, but he said fears of recession were exaggerated and that new digital products such as cameras and recordable compact discs would invigorate the market.

Lower prices for standard electrical items would also help, he said. "Prices have come down and you can now get a 14-inch portable TV for less than £100 and a video recorder for less than £100, and the prices of microwave ovens are also falling," Mr Clare said.

The Asian economic crisis has had little effect on Dixons' buying prices as it secures most of its electrical supplies from the UK. However, prices of personal computers have fallen by 20 per cent since Christmas due to lower component prices.

On strategy, Mr Clare said he would look at other opportunities in UK retailing as well as overseas expansion.

Dixons reported a 14 per cent increase in underlying profits to £217.6m. Investment column, page 23

# Nationwide battle over £499,000 'fat cat' pay

BY ANDREW VERITY

THE NATIONWIDE yesterday risked fresh hostility to its board's battle to stay mutual as it revealed Brian Davis, its chief executive, was paid nearly half a million pounds in the year to April - a 26 per cent rise.

Mr Davis, who has led a high profile campaign to stop carpetbaggers collecting windfalls worth hundreds of pounds each, was paid £300,000 in salary alone, up from £250,000 in the year to April 1997.

He received an annual bonus of £79,000, a three-year bonus of £76,000, benefits worth £14,000 and pension contributions of £20,000 - nearly double the contributions of the previous year.

The £499,000 package provoked an immediate reaction from candidates running for election to the Nationwide's board in a bid to force the so-

cially has admitted that a big chunk of its unprecedented growth in business is due to 600,000 carpetbaggers, who opened savings accounts to secure a windfall.

While Nationwide's board has campaigned ardently in favour of staying mutual, a formal postal ballot on the issue is now said to be running "neck and neck". Three resolutions in favour of de-mutualisation will be decided in a proxy vote on July 23.

Michael Hardern, the part-time freelance butler who is running alongside Mr Muir for election to the board, yesterday pulled a bizarre publicity stunt in an effort to raise the profile of his campaign.

Dressed in peer's robes outside the Houses of Parliament, Mr Hardern insisted Nationwide customers would get free access to the Internet - and a seat in the House of Lords.

"Tony Blair has talked about modernising the House of Lords and this could be done by inviting Nationwide customers to take a seat in the House of Lords," Mr Hardern said.

A spokesman for the Nationwide answered: "We are adopting a polite approach to Mr Hardern and we wouldn't want to comment on what he said."

"I think our members can make their own judgements," he said.

Brian Davis: A 26 per cent pay rise to £499,000

city to convert to a bank.

Andrew Muir the 32-year-old recruitment consultant from Slough who is standing for election, said: "This is a classic case of fat cats who have no effective body to check their pay.

"Conversion would bring the institutional investors in and they would look after the interests of the majority of small shareholders. If he is taking a 25 per cent pay rise, did he give his staff a 25 per cent pay rise?"

A spokesman for the building society defended the pay rise. "I think Brian would be the first to accept that he is well

on strategy. Mr Clare said he would look at other opportunities in UK retailing as well as overseas expansion.

Dixons reported a 14 per cent increase in underlying profits to £217.6m. Investment column, page 23



Michael Hardern in a baron's robes outside the House of Lords, where he promised Nationwide shareholders a seat if elected to the society's board. Ben Curtis

## Yen slides further as markets lose patience

THE DOLLAR climbed against the yen yesterday after Japan's Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, provided few details of his plans to cut taxes.

Mr Hashimoto said he would seek "publicly acceptable" tax cuts in the next fiscal year. He did not say how large these would be, how they would be funded or whether they would be permanent.

The market is getting tired of waiting for Japan to take action on taxes," said Luis Mazzel of LM Capital Management in La Jolla, California. "They can no longer talk their way out of this crisis. If we don't see concrete action soon, we're going to see the dollar at 155 yen."

The dollar rose to 139.67 yen from 138.74 yesterday.

The dollar has fluctuated against the yen over the last five days amid mixed signals from Japanese officials on tax reform. Mr Hashimoto's comments suggested he may call for a cut in personal income taxes. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Tax Research Commission will begin debating proposals on 16 July, he said.



Hashimoto: Gave little detail of tax-cut scheme

On Tuesday, Japanese officials talked up a 1.5 per cent rise in the yen by stoking expectations that Mr Hashimoto would give details yesterday on a plan for permanent tax cuts.

Hiromu Nonaka, the deputy secretary general of the LDP, said Mr Hashimoto supported national and local income tax cuts. Another LDP official said the plan would be announced before Mr Hashimoto visits US President Bill Clinton in Washington on 22 July.

"Hashimoto has let the mar-

kets down before," said Mark McGuinness, a foreign exchange trader at Gulf International Bank. "With the Japanese economy a total shambles, the failure of Japan to impress the market today will send the yen lower" to 140 yen, he said.

The Deutsche Bank weakened after the New York Times reported that the International Monetary Fund privately indicated it may be willing to provide Russia with \$5.6bn (£3.4bn) in new loans, less than the \$10bn to \$15bn Russian officials say is needed.

In a deal auction yesterday Russia raised only a quarter of the amount it needs to cover \$1bn in debt repayments this week.

Many economists are concerned that Russia's cash squeeze may force it to default on the rouble. They are also worried that the country's economic malaise may deter investors in eastern Europe, taking a toll on financial markets and bringing the region's economic travails closer to Germany's borders.

ABN to take over Brazilian bank in £1bn deal

BY LEA PATERSON

ABN Amro, the acquisitive Dutch bank, is to take over one of Brazil's leading banks in a \$2.1bn (£1.26bn) deal, the biggest acquisition in ABN's history.

The Dutch bank is buying a controlling stake in Banco Real, the number four bank in Brazil.

The deal will give ABN a third regional hub in addition to its American Midwest and Dutch operations. The group has long held expansionary ambitions in Latin America, and was widely expected to make some kind of acquisition following a recent failed attempt to take over the Belgian Generali Bank.

Jan Kalff, chief executive of ABN, said: "Banco Real makes a perfect strategic fit with ABN Azur's existing operations in Brazil. We are impressed with Banco Real's well-established reputation as a ... traditional bank."

ABN is paying \$2.1bn for a 40 per cent stake in Banco Real, and will partly finance the acquisition through the issue of \$1.0bn in preference shares.

Mr Kalff said he expected the deal to generate more than \$100m of cost synergies and predicted that ABN's Brazilian operations would earn a pre-tax profit of around \$1.2bn by 2001.

The ABN chief said he was still eyeing other acquisitions to bolster the bank's international credentials. Some of the possible purchases were in Europe, he said, but added that no other deals were imminent.

ABN lost out to Fortis earlier this year in the bidding war for Générale Bank, and also failed in its attempt to buy the French CIC Bank.

John Leonard, banking analyst at Salomon Smith Barney, said: "It makes good strategic sense. It's a market they know well ... and [it] should have a lot of opportunities for them."

## Capital Citybus sells out

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

Development Capital, which helped set up Capital Citybus, will sell its 47.5 per cent stake and its preference shares for £7.5m in cash. The management team will receive £6.7m for its 52.5 per cent share stake.

Brendan Glyde and Leon Daniels, joint managing directors of Capital Citybus, will receive £1m each and shares worth over £2m each. The other six members of the management team will share a further £2m in cash.

The team agreed to sell Capital Citybus, which has been operating since 1988, for £14.1m, including £1.6m in cash and 500,600 of new First Group shares worth £2.57m. Lloyds

is estimated at £28m. It made a small profit last year and was expected to break even this year after financing investment. It is likely to make an operating profit of around £1m in its new year to April 1998.

First Group's London bus division, Centre West, has 730 buses and operates in the west of the capital and the West End.

The deal is subject to the approval of the Office of Fair Trading. If approved, it will raise First Group's share of the London bus market from 12 to 17 per cent, ranking it third after Arriva and Stagecoach and roughly equal with Go Ahead. First Group shares, which have doubled in the past 12 months, rose 4p to 42.5p.

Current annualised turnover

## Duisenberg tells banks to lodge assets with ECB

BY LEA PATERSON

WIM DUISENBERG, president of the European Central Bank (ECB), yesterday furthered his reputation for being tough-minded and unafraid of controversy when he insisted that all European banks deposit a proportion of their assets with the ECB. He also issued stern warnings to European financial ministers about the need for fiscal prudence.

At a press conference called to discuss the second meeting of the ECB's governing council, the ECB chief announced that all banks in the "euro-zone" - the group of 11 countries participating in the first wave of European Monetary Union (Emu) - must deposit between 1.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent of assets at the ECB. This so-called "minimum reserve requirement" is intended to ensure financial stability, but has been heavily criticised for disadvantaging banks within the euro-zone.

Banks outside the zone - including banks in the UK - will not have to pay minimum reserve requirements to the ECB, and as such have an unfair competitive advantage, according to critics of the system.

In an attempt to head off criticism of the minimum reserve requirement, Mr Duisenberg announced that the ECB would pay interest on all assets deposited by banks within the euro-zone.

Christian Noyer, vice-president of the ECB, said that this decision to pay interest meant that the minimum reserve requirement was "absolutely neutral" to the banking community, although his view was not shared by everyone in the industry.

Rolf Breuer, chief executive of Deutsche Bank, said that the minimum reserve requirement was an outdated monetary tool which could distort competition.

Mr Breuer said: "I doubt that minimum reserves are a

suitable instrument for managing monetary and stability policy these days. It's a little bit outdated." He added that the decision by the ECB to pay interest on the reserves at a level close to market rates still allowed a possible deviation from market rates, which could give competitors outside the euro-zone an edge.

However, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said he was encouraged by the ECB's decision to pay interest on reserves, saying it would minimise the distortions such a system could inflict on the financial sector.

Mr Duisenberg also used yesterday's ECB press conference as an opportunity to warn European finance ministers against taking an overly relaxed attitude towards fiscal policy.

The ECB chief said: "I raised a yellow card [to European finance ministers]. If countries do not continue to consolidate their budget it will place a strain on the monetary policy of the European Central Bank."

In response to questions from reporters, Mr Duisenberg also said that he was keeping a close eye on fiscal policy in Ireland's booming economy. Charlie McCreevy, the Irish finance minister, said the ECB chief's point of view was "not in any way" binding on member states.

Mr McCreevy added that the ECB was in charge of monetary policy, while budgetary policy was a matter for governments.

Mr Duisenberg said that the ECB had agreed to give central banks outside the euro-zone conditional access to Target, its gross payments system, a decision which the Bank of England said was "satisfactory".

The ECB said it would announce key details of its monetary strategy - including whether it intended to target interest rates or money supply - in the autumn.

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## The PC Deal of the Year

The Time UltimatePC GT™ featuring Intel® Pentium™ II processor 333MHz, massive 128Mb RAM memory, the latest 8MB ATI AGP graphics and a huge 8.6Gb hard drive is now available for just £1189 +VAT. For a limited period this powerful system includes a FREE PC-TV system and colour VideoPhone camera.

Order the Evec model and get 12 months INTEREST FREE CREDIT with NOTHING to pay until July 1999!

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The deal will give ABN a third regional hub in addition to its American Midwest and Dutch operations. The group has long held expansionary ambitions in Latin America, and was widely expected to make some kind of acquisition

MAIN MOVERS														
RISES					FALLS									
PRICE(£) CHG(£) %CHG					PRICE(£) CHG(£) %CHG									
Scottish Power 628.00 65.00 11.51					Webthorpe 277.50 -15.00 -5.15									
MAN Group 542.00 21.00 5.67					Babcock 586.00 -30.50 -5.20									
Smiths 621.00 12.00 5.81					Mayflower 290.99 -6.00 -2.12									
Racial Electronics 421.50 21.50 5.33					Rexon 265.50 -16.00 -5.70									
United Am 565.50 20.00 5.20					Rugby Group 184.50 -4.00 -2.22									
Grant Park 244.00 12.00 5.17					Chapman 641.00 -22.00 -3.32									
Tottenham 185.00 8.00 4.49					Miles of Steel 152.50 -5.50 -3.47									
Breweries Pubs + Rest. 1,016.25					British Int 154.00 -3.00 -2.14									
BREWERS PUGS + REST. 1,016.25					Tottenham 185.00 8.00 4.49									
MARKET LEADERS														
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm														
Stock	Block	Vol.	Stock	Block	Stock	Block	Stock	Block	Stock					
Queen Max	32.7m	1,776	Black & Decker	9.0m	1,016	Glynn Ind	6.4m	1,016	High Low Stock					
Shell Tramp	27.0m	1,776	Beta Group	9.0m	1,016	Kinetic Electric	8.4m	1,016	Price Chg					
Scottish Power	23.3m	1,776	Dunlop	8.5m	1,016	Leisure	7.4m	1,016	PE					
Car Services	17.4m	1,776	British Petroleum	8.5m	1,016	Leisure	7.4m	1,016	Days					
Wilson	15.5m	1,776	Unilever	8.5m	1,016	Leisure	7.4m	1,016	Out					
FTSE 100 INDEX														
HOUR BY HOUR														
Open 3,709.00	Up 30.50	1,776	3,709.2	Up 30.50	1,776	3,709.1	Up 4.00	1,776	3,709.00					
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# Housebuilders on firm foundations

BUILDERS, battered and bruised as higher interest rates halted the housing boom before it really got under way, were given a helping hand by Merrill Lynch.

As the stock market fretted that interest rates may today be pushed even higher by the Monetary Policy Committee, the powerful investment house suggested that the shares of most housebuilders were now a buy. It adopted a "buy" position because it felt the long slide had left housebuilding shares undervalued.

Barratt Developments climbed 6p to 254.5p; Redrow 4p to 145.5p and Bellway 11.5p to 305p. Each remains below its year's high. Barratt hit 341p in May, Redrow 188p in March and Bellway 401.5p in May.

The Merrill upgrades occurred a day after Berkeley, the upmarket housebuilder, unsettled the sector, although its profits were up 34 per cent to £100m with Merrill predicting £120m this year. "What we're saying is that even with a rate increase, builder stocks are worth holding on to," said analyst Mark Hake.

After a drab session, Fosties managed to make headway in the

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

last 30 minutes, ending with a 6.2-point gain to 6,009.5. It has now achieved a six-day winning streak. The mid cap index was also higher, but once again small cap shares were in the doldrums, producing another losing display.

Not for the first time RMC, the building materials group, appeared to be the victim of rogue trades. The last order book trade, which represents the official closing price, was at 960p. But two later market maker trades were at 1,000p and 984p. The 960p trade was for only 726 shares.

BT was at one time up 29p on Brussels's clearance of the World-

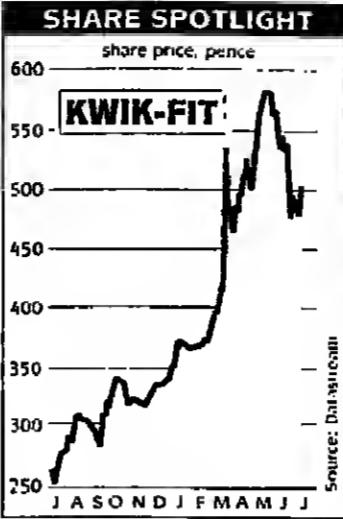
The 960p close indicates an 83-fall (almost 8 per cent) on the day. RMC is a Footsie constituent, so the maverick trade will have distorted the final calculation.

BskyB was the best performing blue chip, the satellite broadcaster rose 28p to 180p. An unexpectedly cheerful trading statement from Scottish & Newcastle, the brewing group, lifted the shares 36p to 181p; Dixons, the electrical retailer, headed the mid caps with a 66p charge to 547p after producing profits at the top of the market forecast range and reporting current sales were not as bad as many had feared.

SmithKline Beecham was given another takeover whirl, up 17.5p after 27p to 784.5p. For once it was US group Merck in the frame and not Glaxo Wellcome, up 32p to 1,838p.

British Airways was lowered 5p to 696p following the EU's highly conditional clearance on its link with American Airlines, and BAA, the airports group, hardened 11p to 664p after CSFB was thought to have hoisted its target to 737p.

Other telecoms paused for breath. Energis fell 55p to 1,012.5p after Morgan Stanley marginally lowered its enthusiasm. National



JASON J F M A M J J

Grid, which controls Energis, managed to end with a modest gain at 435p. ScottishPower shaded 16p to 602p and Orange was hit 31.5p to 706.5p.

Reuters, the information group, rose 11p to 685p with Schroders suggesting an 800p target, and Prudential Corporation added 26p to 829p with Lehman Brothers offering buy advice. Kwik-Fit, the tyres and exhausts group, accelerated 24.5p to 502p after SBC Warburg put a 600p target on the shares. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson was also thought to be positive.

Leisure shares, recently riding high, remained depressed with the counter attraction of the World Cup continuing to erode investor confidence. Rank fell 10p to 315p.

Sports retailers also looked ragged on stories of piles of unsold England World Cup shirts stuck on shelves. JJB Sports, 822.5p in February, fell 28p to 429.5p, and Blacks Leisure 5.5p to 295p.

Anite, the once-disaster-ridden Cray Electronics improved 15.5p to 74.5p. Now a computer services group, it returned to profits, mounted a 9.5m bid for a Dutch group

and is back on the dividend list. Mentmore Abbey, the business support group, firmed 2p to 90 following results and despite a million share sale by Schroders Investment Management.

Touchstone, an accountancy software business placed at 105p, closed at 128.5p. On Ofex, Coronation International Mining, placed at 20p, ended at 22.5p. Stockbroker BWD rose 15.5p to 235.5p with interim profits of £2.9m against £1.5m.

Profits warnings were again a factor. Infoshare, an electronic group, firmed 80p to 210p following a warning results would be "significantly" below the £3.6m the market expected and Treats, an ice-cream group, melted 25p to 68.5p after reporting its sales had been

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STOCKBROKER Williams de Broe expects the John Lusty food group to achieve profits of £3.45m this year compared with £1.9m the last time around.

For next year the forecast is £4.1m and then £4.7m. Says analyst David Hallam: "The group will be grown both organically, by plugging new products into its distribution network, and by acquisition." Lusty distributes such lines as Hershey confectionery and San Pellegrino mineral waters.

The shares held at 11p, capitalising the company at £24m. Mr Hallam rates them a buy.

XENOVA, a loss-making drug group, tumbled down 25p to 100p, a new low price.

Penna, the recruitment group, jumped 43p to 273.5p after a £12m IT recruitment acquisition and profits of £1.8m against £848,000.

The shares have been as high as 435p. They were floated at 215p a share in December 1996.

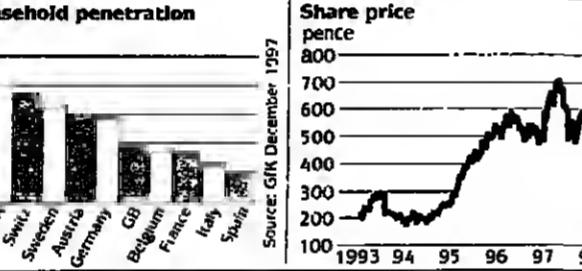
## Why Dixons' sales fall is good news

### INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

#### DIXONS GROUP: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £2.35bn, share price: 574.1 (+66p)					
Trading record					
1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	
Turnover (£bn)	1.9	1.6	1.9	2.4	2.7
Pre-tax profits (£m)	-165.2	100.3	101.5	200.2	218.7
Earnings per share (p)	-44.1	16.6	15.3	34.3	37.7
Dividends per share (p)	6.6	7.3	8.8	10.5	12.7



#### Everything is going FT's way

F1 GROUP, the information technology outsourcing company, needed good results yesterday to justify its sky-high rating. The figures were stunning: in the year to April, pre-tax profits rose 62 per cent to £107m, despite the company paying out £4m in bonuses. The shares, which have risen eight-fold in two years, put on 115p to close at a new high of 1,830p.

Everything is going FT's way. It is picking up new long-term contracts, as a recent joint venture with Bank of Scotland shows. Its Indian subsidiary, acquired for £26m in December, allows FT to farm out work to cheaper Indian programmers. And having already benefited from the millennium date change - which accounted for 15 per cent of revenues last year - it is now cashing in by preparing customers' systems for European Monetary Union.

How long will it last? Despite well-publicised staff shortages in IT there is no sign of any immediate threat to FT's success. Longer term, it will need to replace the millennium and euro work with other projects. Chief executive Harry Cropper plans to expand into the network management, staffing and enterprise resource planning software businesses.

Profit forecasts of £16m put the shares on a demanding earnings multiple of 57. But conventional valuations no longer matter: the shares are worth holding. The shares were unchanged at 1710p.

**£27m for Daejan**

DAEJAN, the property group, made profits of £27.1m in the year to 31 March, an increase of 11 per cent.

A 7 per cent rise in net rental income to £30.1m and a 13 per cent drop in the surplus on

trading property sales to £6.6m was balanced by a 3 per cent rise in operating costs, a 70 per cent rise in the surplus on the sale of investment properties and a small fall in interest charges. The

shares were unchanged at 1710p.

**£1.6m for Hillier Parker partners**

TWENTY SEVEN partners at Hillier Parker May & Rowden, the UK property services group, will net an average of £1.6m each after deciding to sell out to the American firm CB Richard Ellis.

The US real estate company is also setting up an incentive programme to retain key staff that could be worth up to £7.5m over three years. The American company said the deal would help satisfy the demand from clients for an international service.

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### IN BRIEF

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#### Torotrak's rights

TOROTRAK, a subsidiary of BTG which makes infinitely variable automatic gearbox systems for motor vehicles, will raise £50m through a 5-for-29 rights issue at 300p as soon as it is demerged from its parent company later this year.

Shareholders in BTG will be given one share in Torotrak plus the right to subscribe to the rights issue for each share they hold in BTG, if the demerger is approved at an EGM on 24 July. The nil-paid rights are expected to start trading around 47p alongside the Torotrak shares on 27 July.

#### Hanson profits

HANSON, the specialised building materials group which remained after the demerger last year of its other businesses, is set for a good year, according to a trading statement issued yesterday.

In the year to end March it made £24.7m before exceptional items. The current year has started well in the United States and the UK, although sales have since been affected by the bad weather. Andrew Dongal, chief executive of the company, said yesterday that first half figures are due to be released on 10 September.

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## Wood takes his turn at the ITN table

### PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

MARK WOOD, editor-in-chief of Reuters, has been appointed chairman of ITN. He succeeds Sir David English, chairman and editor-in-chief of Associated Newspapers, who died suddenly on 10 June.

The chairmanship of ITN is rotated amongst its six owners, which include Carlton Communications and the Granada Group. Reuters holds 20 per cent and Mr Wood is the second non-ITN shareholder to hold the position.

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## SPORT

British Grand Prix: After seven sparse years, misunderstood McLaren are putting up a colourful fight for the crown

# Dennis in drive to paint the title grey

Strict work ethic and a dour image hide the true nature of a determined team who can party with the best. By Derick Allsop

WANDER DOWN the Formula One paddock and a first glimpse of some of the motor homes might confirm a few pre-conceived notions. Ferrari: flame red, flamboyant, passionate. Jordan: screaming yellow, brash, fun. McLaren: grey. Shades of grey. And very smart. But still grey.

Rightly or wrongly, for better or worse, McLaren are perceived as the stern face of grand prix racing, the automotors who, in tandem with Mercedes, have managed to grind their way back to the forefront.

Ron Dennis' team lead the constructors' championship and the drivers' championship in the person of Mika Häkkinen - at the half-way stage of the season and should have performance advantage in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on Sunday.

Dennis, a former mechanic, makes no apologies for McLaren's strict work ethic and fastidiousness. Seven years of relative obscurity have intensified his resolve to regain pre-eminence.

"While we are here we are working," he says. "I see the paddock, the motor homes, the garages as the team's office. I don't care about the criticism that's directed at myself or the team. I expect everybody when they are in their office to be doing their job above all else."

"For me the image is important. We can't win all the races, but we can look the best."

However, he rebuffs the accusation that his team are a cold, uncaring community, unable to laugh and cry with the rest.

"There are, as there are in office, the coffee-breaks, the lunch-breaks and they tend to be consolidated into the post-circuit evenings. We tend to work hard, play hard, and try, and sometimes fail, to bear in mind what we've got to go into the office the next day."

Those who have partied with Dennis will testify to his stamina. Some of his fabled practical jokes, aided and abetted by the former driver, Gerhard Berger, are credited with helping Ayrton Senna discover a sense of humour.

"Ayrton didn't know the concept of a practical joke till he joined the team," Dennis says, with relish.

There is a widely held belief that too much care and attention is lavished on Häkkinen and not enough on the other driver, David Coulthard, thereby undermining his prospects of challenging for the championship.

Dennis replies: "Of course there's a special relationship with Mika. That comes from the fact that he's been with the team longer and he's sustained injuries in an accident in

one of our cars, even if it was caused by debris puncturing the tyre, which allowed us the consolation that it wasn't our fault. And if the driver recovers and returns to form, and if you are human, you can't possibly not have that in your mind."

"But it absolutely does not have any relevance to whether each driver receives equality of equipment and support, and if you are in Formula One as a driver you should have the strength of character to understand and cope with these sorts of issues. I know David has that strength of character."

Dennis maintains he has no plans to throw the team effort behind Häkkinen, who heads Ferrari's Michael Schumacher by a fragile six points and Coulthard by 20.

"We're a long way from needing a strategic approach," Dennis said. "The team's primary goal is the constructors' championship. I would prefer as many race wins as possible, even if it was detrimental to one of our drivers' chances of winning the world championship."

Having said that, that's the best environment for the drivers as well, because we are offering each driver equality, the opportunity to demonstrate he's better than his teammate."

Dennis is equally adamant that Coulthard and Häkkinen should feel confident that they will be retained next season, even if he does not absolutely rule out the possibility of a move for Schumacher.

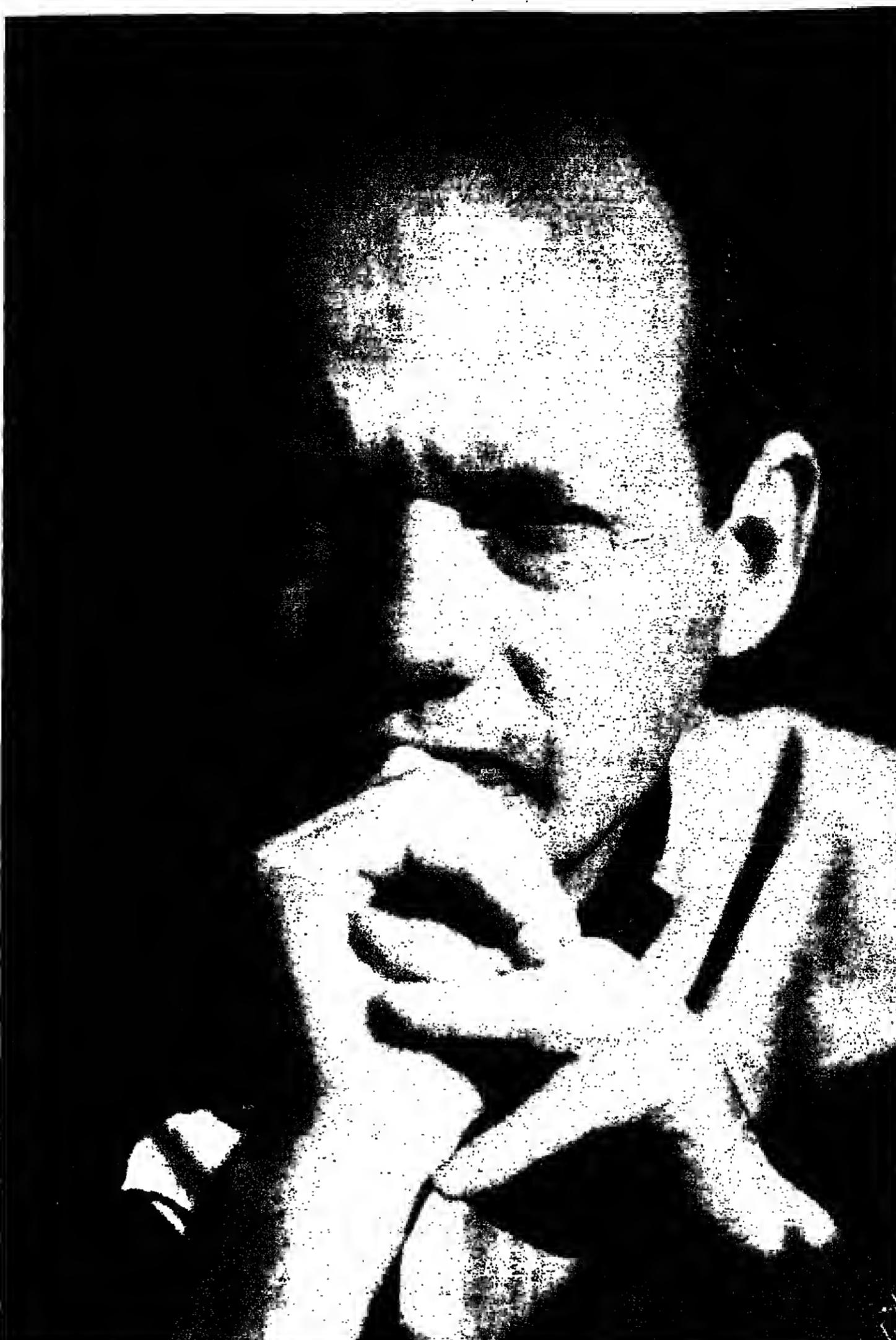
"Historically this team has demonstrated fierce loyalty to its drivers, and David and Mika should feel comfortable than any other drivers in any other team. That has to be qualified by recognising we exist to win, and if necessary we will take difficult decisions."

"If Michael is available and assuming we are in a contractual position to consider it, we will consider it, because it's our job. But that situation doesn't exist at the moment, so it's academic. We've got a stable environment. We enjoy the environment we've got, and we don't really want to change it."

Damon Hill suspects Dennis had no intention of changing his driver line-up when they negotiated last summer. The inference was that the English driver received an offer he had to refuse.

Dennis counters: "There was a possibility he could have been a driver of this team. Why spend hours of discussions if there was a decision already made?"

McLaren's proposal - said to have been £1.5m (£10.9m), plus £1m a win for up to four wins - was considered



Ron Dennis: 'I see the paddock, the motor homes, the garages as the team's office. I expect everyone to be doing his job' Allsport

by Hill to be derisory and talks were terminated. He subsequently joined Jordon.

Dennis says: "I think the offer, taking everything into consideration, should have been accepted. If people don't convince us their primary goal is to win races, there is no place for them in this team. Simple as that."

The McLaren boss is still less impressed with Hill's barbed comments suggesting "corporate McLaren" restrain Coulthard and Häkkinen from speaking their minds and enjoying their success this season.

"I hope he enjoys not winning

races," Dennis responded. "I don't think he's a particularly happy person at the moment. I have a healthy respect for many aspects of Damon, but I think you should focus on what your primary goals are, and that is to win races."

"If, for example, I thought our drivers could enhance their ability to win a grand prix by standing on one leg for half an hour a day and I could give them a valid reason to do so, I would expect them to do it, because that's what we're about."

"What our drivers receive is guidance: this is the advantage of adopting this approach. This is the

disadvantage of adopting that. We're not automated individuals with our corporate media people behind the drivers with their hands up their backs pulling strings. We're not trying to de-colour them."

Dennis, at the age of 51, has

steered his team back on a championship course for the first time since 1991 when McLaren won the last of their six constructors' titles under his command. He resists anticipation of success, but not because of the growing threat and trumpeted confidence of Schumacher and Ferrari.

"We're entering the second half

of the season with a measurable advantage, which can quickly disappear if you have unreliability," he says. "I'm more concerned about that than Schumacher, because it's something we have control over."

"Michael's optimism is part of his psychological approach. It doesn't work at all, either with our drivers or the team."

"Over the 30 odd years I've spent in motorsport, I've often become embroiled in the psychological approach drivers bring to their own efforts, and it's wasted on us. We know where we're going."

## Abominable Showman ready for rematch

Tim Glover reports from Bodmin Moor as Chris Eubank prepares for a second attempt on the WBO cruiserweight title

in this country, then taking a standing count. Name the crowd pullers: Eubank, Naseem Hamed and Evander Holyfield. That's it. They can't fill the London venues so they go to the smaller arenas in the provinces.

When Eubank was on terrestrial TV he attracted bigger audiences than football. Incidentally, watching

the World Cup on television, Eubank said: "If I was in their shoes there is no way I'd take a penalty. In boxing I would put my life on the line and I have done so, but that's a personal thing. I wouldn't want to let down the dreams of an entire country."

Eubank can still sell tickets but it's getting harder. It is understood

that Thompson will get £250,000 on July 18, the challenger perhaps double that. "I still say it's a mug's game," Eubank said. "But I love it. I'm an entertainer and I appreciate that station. There is no other area in which I can entertain in such a potent fashion."

"It's sad to say this but look at nurses. They're in a mug's game. Some people steal for it, some sell their bodies for it, some cheat for it, some even work nine to five. I'm in a noble sport."

"No one beats the system. It's all

about power and you never get what you want. After money you want respect. That is what I've been trying to acquire for the last six years. I want to be honoured."

What Eubank wants is to go to Buckingham Palace and receive a gong. And he is exasperated that he is misunderstood and inaccurately portrayed: "I have always been a showman but I never dress for effect, never talk for effect and I never do anything for column inches," he said. "I wear my heart on my sleeve."

Meanwhile, he had to interrupt his training to provide column inches for the Thompson fight. Unfortunately the Abominable Showman did not meet the Beast of Bodmin, just a miniature pinscher called Blackjack.

Nothing, however, could deter Sky Over at the St Moritz Hotel in Trebetherick they put up a tent in the grounds and made believe all in the interests of entertainment that Eubank and the Beast were on the Moor. God forbid that Eubank should ever hold court on Loch Ness.



Eubank: Beastly mood

## Tyson poised to request ring return

MIKE TYSON today becomes eligible to seek a return to the boxing ring, a year after taking a chunk out of Evander Holyfield's ear.

Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission responsible for issuing his licence, said that if and when Tyson actually applies it will take at least another

two weeks to set up a hearing for the commission to decide his fate.

One of Tyson's new advisers, Shelly Finkel, has said that no decision has been made on when to apply for a new licence, but Tyson was training for a possible return.

Finkel believes Tyson will apply some time in July and expects the

commission to look favourably on the request because Tyson has stayed out of trouble.

Tyson could make his comeback in October or November if given the go-ahead. He was originally banned and fined £1.8m after referee Mills Lane disqualified him in the third round for two biting offences.

Schumacher 'puts others at risk' says Villeneuve

JACQUES VILLENEUVE criticised Michael Schumacher yesterday for "taking risks" which jeopardised drivers' safety. His comments came in the run-up to Sunday's British Grand Prix, which could prove crucial to his rival's title hopes.

Villeneuve, the outgoing world champion after a season of comparative failure with Williams, has kept up the pressure on Schumacher, who is one of the drivers bidding to inherit his crown.

The 27-year-old Villeneuve claimed Schumacher was on "Plan B" after the German added to the growing list of controversial collisions in which he has been involved in Canada last month.

Villeneuve, who Schumacher knocked off the track their title decider last year, said: "Taking risks for yourself is one thing, putting other people at risk is another thing. It goes beyond what I believe is acceptable."

"The line to follow is: don't do something you wouldn't want other people to do to you."

"If you believe nothing can happen to you and you are a higher being than everybody else then I guess that's what you want."

Schumacher was stripped of his second place overall in the drivers' world championship standing as a result of his coming together with Villeneuve and his conduct on the track last season and this has also failed to impress the fans. The German is a dangerous driver, according to almost half of the replies gathered in answer to a question on a Formula One website.

Asked "Is Michael Schumacher a dangerous driver?" by the international Formula1.com site, 47 per cent of the 4,111 voters said "yes".

Schumacher is hardly flavour of the month in Britain at the moment, having had a much-publicised spat with Damon Hill after the Canadian Grand Prix.

That race also saw Schumacher involved in an incident in which his Ferrari emerged from the pit lane and almost forced the Williams of Heinz-Harald Frentzen off the track. He received a 10-second penalty, but still went on to win. Frentzen has since called for Schumacher to resign from the drivers' union, the Grand Prix Drivers' Association.

Villeneuve, talking of Schumacher's title hopes, said: "Michael already has two championships, so it would be good if someone else got it this time."

The Monaco-based driver will be attempting an improbable hat-trick at Silverstone after a season in which his best result in eight races is fourth.

But Villeneuve, victorious seven times last year, admits that despite being 39 points behind the leader Mika Häkkinen he has relished this campaign more than last year even though he has not been as successful.

"The driving side of it, the racing has been a lot of fun," said Villeneuve, who looks set to join British American Racing next season. "I've been going off more than last year and if anything the races have almost been more physical because we've had to be on the limit."

"I've worked harder than last year and so have the team. When you get out of the car and you've finished sixth and you've sweated that much for just one point then it becomes annoying."

imo Pierrot and will do the job himself. "I feel much more comfortable. This time I've got nothing to be apprehensive about. People say I took a lot of punishment but I don't think that and I certainly don't feel that. Apart from my eye, no other part of my body was hurt. I wasn't concussion.

Damon Hill suspects Dennis had no intention of changing his driver line-up when they negotiated last summer. The inference was that the English driver received an offer he had to refuse.

Dennis counters: "There was a possibility he could have been a driver of this team. Why spend hours of discussions if there was a decision already made?"

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# England face exile as IRB clamps down

## RUGBY UNION

By CHRIS REA

THE INTERNATIONAL Rugby Board has moved a step closer to expelling England from the world game. In a letter sent to the Rugby Football Union yesterday the Board expressed its dismay and dissatisfaction at its continuing failure to bring the leading clubs to heel. The letter will be seen as a final warning to the RFU, whose response to the Board's initial communication on the subject in May was considered totally inadequate.

This time there is no room for misinterpretation of the Board's demands. The first is that the RFU must secure the immediate withdrawal of the clubs' application to the European Commission. Failure to comply would mean the withdrawal of the IRB's membership rights – in other words expulsion from the Board. The IRB has made it very clear that although the RFU, through the Mayfair Agreement, has placed itself at the mercy of their clubs, the Board is not bound by the same agreement. "The

RFU is the member of the IRB not the RFU's clubs. It is for the RFU to ensure that its domestic membership accepts the [Board's] conditions. Otherwise the RFU is putting itself in breach of its membership of the IRB."

The letter goes on to say that the clubs' application is contrary to the IRB's regulations and its governance of the world game. Therefore if the RFU cannot, or will not, persuade the clubs to withdraw the application the consequences for the English game could be extremely serious.

The Board also considers that the provisions made in the Mayfair Agreement for the release of players for international rugby are unsatisfactory and unacceptable and they require "a clear statement of full and unequivocal compliance" with regulation eight which deals with this topic. Another contentious issue concerns the ongoing dialogue between English clubs and their French counterparts in their attempts to establish an Anglo-French competition.

When the RFU was summoned to Dublin in May to explain the situation it

gave the Board assurances that it would take action against clubs who were known to be seeking to establish cross-border competitions. It now transpires that the Board has received a complaint that this has indeed been happening and it will be sending the evidence to the RFU in due course.

Finally, there is a stinging rebuke for the RFU, who had given assurances in its recently circulated Annual Report that the IRB had "generally approved" the Mayfair Agreement. The Board insists that is patently not the case and the RFU has been given until the middle of the month to respond to the Board's demands.

● The Allied Dunbar Premiership champions, Newcastle, yesterday announced that they had signed the South African prop forward Marius Huter on a three-year deal.

Huter, who has 12 Test caps and was a member of the Springboks' 1995 World Cup-winning squad, will join the Falcons at the end of October when he completes his Currie Cup commitments with Western Province.

## Funnell in commanding form

### EQUESTRIANISM

By GENEVIEVE MURPHY  
at Hickstead

PIPPA FUNNELL supplied the highlight of a hugely successful first running of the Horse and Hound Eventing Grand Prix yesterday, when she became the only rider to leave all the fences intact, thus winning his new contest at the Royal International Horse Show.

Funnell had a couple of small nippings with her nimble grey mount, The Tourmente Rose, including a run-out at the 15th of the 28 fences which wasted time but was not penalised. She still won by a commanding margin of 13.32sec – defeating her Bramham winners, Polly Phillips with Coral Cove, and the individual Olympic champions, Blyth Tait of New Zealand with Ready Teddy.

Chris Bartle, who would have

collected a jackpot of £20,000 had he added victory here to his Badminton success on Word Perfect II, finished in fourth place. "He hadn't run since Badminton and the atmosphere made him very buzzy," Bartle said of Word Perfect, after incurring a 40-second penalty for five fences down.

The contest drew a huge crowd of nearly 18,000 – unprecedented for a weekday at Hickstead – and, much to the relief of Robert Lemieux who designed the course, the fences rode much better than riders had predicted. Though many rails hit the ground, not a single horse fell. The contest will certainly be repeated next year, possibly with a few amendments.

The five show jumping riders who participated finished well down in the results, with Dutchman Piet Raymakers the best of them in 16th place. But they

added some spice to the proceedings (Michael Whitaker gave a borrowed event horse, Graceland Cavalier a wonderful ride over the long course), and they will surely be better prepared next year.

William Franklin, husband of the winning rider and one of the show jumpers who participated, promised that it would be "a different story" next year. Tait was "glad that the eventers came out on top" believes that the competition will be even better next year after the practice run.

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW (Hickstead): Horse and Hound Eventing Grand Prix: 1 The Tourmente Rose (Pippa Funnel), 261.01sec, 2 Coral Cove (Chris Bartle), 261.32sec, 3 Word Perfect II (C. Bartle), 278.82s, 4 Word Perfect II (C. Bartle), 280.74s, 5 Welton Molecule (L. Thompson, Ir), 281.23s, 6 Home Run II (P. Phillips, Gb), 281.29s, 7 Hickstead International Stakes: 1 Virtual Village Hunter's Level (J. Whitaker, Gb) clear, 67.05s; 2 Hickstead V (P. Phillips, Gb) clear, 67.05s; 3 Hickstead V (P. Phillips, Gb) clear, 67.05s; 4 Hickstead V (G. Tait, Gb) clear, 67.05s; 5 Hickstead International Stakes: 1 Virtual Village Hunter's Level (J. Whitaker, Gb) clear, 67.05s; 6 Hickstead V (P. Phillips, Gb) clear, 67.05s; 7 Hickstead V (G. Tait, Gb) clear, 67.05s; 8 Hickstead International Stakes: 1 Virtual Village Hunter's Level (J. Whitaker, Gb) clear, 67.05s; 2 Hickstead V (P. Phillips, Gb) clear, 67.05s; 3 Hickstead V (G. Tait, Gb) clear, 67.05s; 4 Hickstead V (P. 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# Open ends Nicklaus' run

## GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL

FOR THE first time in 37 years, a major championship will be lacking the presence of Jack Nicklaus, the game's greatest exponent on the biggest stage. Nicklaus, who at the age of 58 was still good enough to finish eighth at the US Masters in April, has withdrawn from the Open at Royal Birkdale next week, so bringing an end to his streak of participation in consecutive majors at 14.

It is a record which is likely to stand the test of time as much as Nicklaus's feat of winning 18 majors, seven more than Walter Hagen. Ironically, the man with the second longest current streak, Nick Faldo at 44, is also doubtful for Birkdale with an elbow injury.

The last time Nicklaus, who will also miss next month's

USPGA Championship, did not tee up in a major was at the 1961 USPGA. As an amateur at the time he was not eligible. He turned professional at the end of that season and from the following year has played in all four majors every year.

In all, Nicklaus has played in 154 majors, making his debut at the US Open in 1957 when he missed the cut as an amateur. His first victory came at the US Open in 1962. His six Masters victories, the last coming at the age of 46 in 1986, is a record, while his five USPGA and four US Opens are both joint records. His three British Open victories came at Muirfield in 1966, and twice at St Andrews in 1970 and '78.

Although warning is recent years that his run of consecutive Opens, which has ended at 36, would not necessarily continue, Nicklaus has said he hopes to return to the Old

Course for the 2000 Open. That would allow the "Home of Golf" to give the Golden Bear an appropriate send-off, as Arnold Palmer enjoyed in 1995.

Unlike Palmer, Nicklaus has never seen himself as a ceremonial golfer. Yet he has missed only two cuts in his last 12 majors and thrilled the gallery at Augusta and armchair viewers alike with his weekend charge at the Masters. His finishing position of 43rd at the US Open was plenty of money for spread-betting punters who "sold" him to do better than 70th.

"After 42 years of playing major championship golf, I feel my ability to compete at the highest level on a continuous basis is marginal at best," Nicklaus said. "As much as I enjoy playing and competing in majors, I feel it is time to end the streak."

"I was going to end it at the Masters until the USGA kindly gave me an exemption for the US Open. I deeply appreciated that invitation and felt I could not turn it down. However, the preparation time and physical demands which are required to be competitive are difficult for me to satisfy at this time."

"Building and sustaining my major record required me to work hard, keep my focus and try to maintain a game that could compete with the best. I didn't want to end the streak by having it said that Jack Nicklaus could no longer play the game. Instead, I wanted to step back with the feeling that the competitive spirit and ability still thrived within me. I wanted to end the streak on my own terms."

Nicklaus recently said that

Jimmy Hill was leading professional footballers in their dispute to abolish the so-called "slave contract" employment system and get better pay, threatening the start of the season.

Iraqi leader General Kassem was threatening to invade Kuwait, protected by the US and Britain.

The Everly Brothers were at No 1 in the charts with "Temptation". The Beatles were yet to have a hit.

Princess Margaret was pregnant, while Prince Philip was on crutches after breaking a bone whilst playing polo.

winning the US Senior Open, which takes place in Los Angeles the week after the Open, was more important to him than winning Birkdale. However, he will be in Chester on Monday to open his new course at Carden Park. Should his son, Gary, get through final

qualifying, Nicklaus may stay to watch him in action.

Nicklaus added: "I certainly will miss playing in the Open. I have always loved playing the British seaside courses and competing in the British Open has regularly been one of the highlights of my year."

**JACK NICKLAUS'S RECORD IN THE MAJORS: MASTERS**: Played: 40. Wins: 6 (1963-65-66-72-75-86). 2nd: 4 (1964-71-79). Top 10s: 22. Missed cuts: 3. US OPEN: Played: 36. Wins: 3 (1965-67-72). 2nd: 4 (1966-67-68-72-76-77-79). Top 10s: 18. Missed cuts: 10. Open: Played: 36. Wins: 5 (1963-71-73-75-80). 2nd: 4 (1964-65-67-68-73-74). Top 10s: 15. Missed cuts: 9.

PA



Jack Nicklaus, with the help of his wife Barbara, celebrates at Muirfield after winning the 1966 Open, a feat he repeated in 1970 and 1978

### 1961. WHEN THE BEAR LAST MISSED A MAJOR

Selwyn Lloyd's budget put the price of cigarettes up 4d to 4s 6d, around 22p. Postage charges rose from 2d to 2 1/2d, and the price of a bottle of whisky rose to 2s 1d from 2s 19p.

Yuri Gagarin visited London, having become the first man in space. The *Daily Mirror*, disgusted by the Government's decision to ignore him, ran a campaign to make him "Sir" Yuri.

In sport, the British Grand Prix was staged at Aintree. Two Brits made it to the women's final at Wimbledon: Angela Mortimer beat Christine Truman 4-6, 6-4, 7-5. Richie Benaud's Australians retained the Ashes 2-1.

### LINGFIELD

#### HYPERION

**2.25 SARRAIS 2.55 Totem 3.25 Sihihi 4.00 Just In Time 4.30 Blowing Away 5.05 Random Kindness**

GOING: Good to firm (Good in places).

STALLS: Straight course - stand aside; 1m 6f - outside; rest inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5f to 7f 14yd.

■ Left-hand, sharp undulating course.

■ Course is SE of town on B228. Lingfield station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £1.50, Family Enclosure £2.00. CAR PARK: Club £3; remainder free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M. Johnson 52 winners from 224 runners (success rate 17.7%). R Hannan 49-362 (35.9%). Lord Huntingdon 44-223 (20.5%). Miss G. Whittle 38-234 (16.2%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clerk 72 wins from 397 rides (success rate 18.2%). S Whitfield 51-391 (14.5%). J Quinn 35-683 (5.2%). G Carter 27-201 (5%).

■ FAVOURITES: 2/1 in 221 races (33.2%).

BLINKED FIRST TIME: None.

**2.25 UNIWINS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 2YO 7f**

1 DANNY DEEVER 0.0m 9.0... Evans O'Connor 1  
2 02 GOLDFINGER 5.0f 9.0... J. Moore 3  
3 3 KARIBI 5.0f 9.0... J. Moore 4  
4 00245 BUBBLE 5.0f 9.0... J. Moore 5  
5 00205 STONES 5.0f 9.0... J. Moore 6  
6 00205 HOT 5.0f 9.0... J. Moore 7  
7 00205 KISS ME KATE 5.0f 9.0... J. Moore 8  
8 00205 MAGNUS 5.0f 9.0... J. Moore 9  
9 00205 SARRAIS 5.0f 9.0... J. Moore 10

- 9 declared -

BETTING: 5-2 Sarrais, 3-1 Karibi, 7-2 Goldfinger, 5-1 Jaquenetta, 10-1 Kicks Me Kate, 18-1 On Es Es, 20s Hot, 25-1 others

### 2.55 ASIA PACIFIC EXPRESS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 3YO 7f 14yd

GOING: Firm (Good in places).

STALLS: Straight course - stand aside; 1m 6f - outside; rest inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5f to 7f 14yd.

■ Left-hand, sharp undulating course.

■ Course is SE of town on B228. Lingfield station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £1.50, Family Enclosure £2.00. CAR PARK: Club £3; remainder free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M. Johnson 52 winners from 224 runners (success rate 17.7%). R Hannan 49-362 (35.9%). Lord Huntingdon 44-223 (20.5%). Miss G. Whittle 38-234 (16.2%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clerk 72 wins from 397 rides (success rate 18.2%). S Whitfield 51-391 (14.5%). J Quinn 35-683 (5.2%). G Carter 27-201 (5%).

■ FAVOURITES: 2/1 in 221 races (33.2%).

BLINKED FIRST TIME: None.

**3.25 NICHOLSON GREGORY & JONES HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,000 3YO 7f 14yd**

GOING: Firm (Good in places).

STALLS: Straight course - stand aside; 1m 6f - outside; rest inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5f to 7f 14yd.

■ Left-hand, sharp undulating course.

■ Course is SE of town and 5m W of Newmarket. Racecourse adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £2.00. Tattersalls £5 (OAP members of course) Diamond Club £4, accompanied under 16s free. CAR PARK: Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M. Johnson 48 winners from 228 runners (success rate 20.2%). S Bowring 45-385 (22.4%). J Eyras 40-261 (22.4%). R Hollinshead 37-40 (27%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: L. Charnock 34 wins from 373 rides (success rate 9.1%). G Duffield 25-225 (21.9%). Dean McKeown 27-333 (8%). A Culshaw 25-247 (10%).

■ FAVOURITES: 2/1 in 201 races (34.8%).

BLINKED FIRST TIME: None.

**4.00 CRAWLEY DOWN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 3YO fillies & mares 1m 14yd**

GOING: Firm (Good in places).

STALLS: Straight course - stand aside; 1m 6f - outside; rest inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5f to 7f 14yd.

■ Left-hand, sharp undulating course.

■ Course is SE of town and 5m W of Newmarket. Racecourse adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £2.00. Tattersalls £5 (OAP members of course) Diamond Club £4, accompanied under 16s free. CAR PARK: Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M. Johnson 48 winners from 228 runners (success rate 20.2%). S Bowring 45-385 (22.4%). J Eyras 40-261 (22.4%). R Hollinshead 37-40 (27%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: L. Charnock 34 wins from 373 rides (success rate 9.1%). G Duffield 25-225 (21.9%). Dean McKeown 27-333 (8%). A Culshaw 25-247 (10%).

■ FAVOURITES: 2/1 in 201 races (34.8%).

BLINKED FIRST TIME: None.

**2.15 ALFRISTON MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 3YO & mare 1m 14yd**

GOING: Firm (Good in places).

STALLS: Straight course - stand aside; 1m 6f - outside; rest inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5f to 7f 14yd.

■ Left-hand, sharp undulating course.

■ Course is SE of town and 5m W of Newmarket. Racecourse adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £2.00. Tattersalls £5 (OAP members of course) Diamond Club £4, accompanied under 16s free. CAR PARK: Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M. Johnson 48 winners from 228 runners (success rate 20.2%). S Bowring 45-385 (22.4%). J Eyras 40-261 (22.4%). R Hollinshead 37-40 (27%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: L. Charnock 34 wins from 373 rides (success rate 9.1%). G Duffield 25-225 (21.9%). Dean McKeown 27-333 (8%). A Culshaw 25-247 (10%).

■ FAVOURITES: 2/1 in 201 races (34.8%).

BLINKED FIRST TIME: None.

**3.15 SNELSTON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,000 3YO 7f**

GOING: Firm (Good in places).

STALLS: Straight course - stand aside; 1m 6f - outside; rest inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5f to 7f 14yd.

■ Left-hand, sharp undulating course.

■ Course is SE of town and 5m W of Newmarket. Racecourse adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £2.00. Tattersalls £5 (OAP members of course) Diamond Club £4, accompanied under 16s free. CAR PARK: Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M. Johnson 48 winners from 228 runners (success rate 20.2%). S Bowring 45-385 (22.4%). J Eyras 40-261 (22.4%). R Hollinshead 37-40 (27%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: L. Charnock 34 wins from 373 rides (success rate 9.1%). G Duffield 25-225 (21.9%). Dean McKeown 27-333 (8%). A Culshaw 25-247 (10%).

■ FAVOURITES: 2/1 in 201 races (34.8%).

BLINKED FIRST TIME: None.

**3.50 WILMINGTON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (F) £3,000 2YO 6f**

GOING: Firm (Good in places).

STALLS: Straight course - stand aside; 1m 6f - outside; rest inside.

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NatWest Trophy second round: Essex's crown slips while Lancashire win Roses match and Scotland's run ends

# Connor's wiles humble holders

BY JOHN COLLIS  
at Southampton

Essex 129  
Hampshire 132-7  
Hampshire win by three wickets

IN SUCH an unreliable summer as this an old cardigan can often be useful, and Hampshire will be grateful that they took 37-year-old Cardigan Connor to this match, just in case. The captain, Robin Smith, had been sidelined on Sunday when Gloucestershire's Mike Smith had re-broken his right index finger, but the spinning finger of his deputy, Shaun Udal, did the trick winning the toss on a muggy, green-wicket morning. Connor, not in the scorecard XI but always likely to play, took the new ball.

Essex arrived at Southampton as holders of the NatWest Trophy, but within five balls the veteran Anglian quick bowler had loosened their grip. The day's first delivery cartwheeled Paul Prichard's off-stump, Nasser Hussain dropped the third to short leg, and Stuart Law snicked the fifth. In his cricketing doldrums Connor - who took his blouson wicket in all competitions for Hampshire, on Sunday - is a one-day specialist and opening overs do not come much more special than this.

But Hampshire will not have been complacent at this point. In the previous round, against Dorset, they had lost their first three wickets for no runs, whereas at least Law had clipped a leg-side two for Essex. Enter Nixon McLean, the Test

bowler from St Vincent. His speed snaffled Ronnie Irani and Paul Grayson in the slips, Connor returned to take Stephen Peters - who tried to leave a rising ball but flat-batted it onto his stumps - and after 50 minutes Essex were 32 for 6.

The eccentric early movement faded while Danny Law and Robert Rollins steered Essex past the worst total in this competition by a first-class county (41) by Middlesex, ironically against Essex. But if the greatest sin in one-day cricket is not to bat out your allotted time, however unproductively, then Essex were heading for eternal cricket hell when they capitulated in 41.4 overs.

Their minds must have been once more at Lord's, where on Saturday they will take on Leicestershire in the Benson and Hedges final. This was no rehearsal for the big day. Cricket, of course, is a somewhat complex and unpredictable activity and Hampshire managed to make dreadfully heavy weather - now under a clear blue sky - of achieving a modest target. Irani, an England discard enjoying a rich season was the bowler above all who made a game of it, after Hampshire's opener Jason Laney had made a blistering start, pummelling five boundaries of Ashley Cowan's first two overs.

But in the end the visitors had little hope of two-plus an over, though Hampshire took the same number of balls to overhaul them. McLean punched Cowan for a winning boundary, and Connor was a bug-eyed popular man of the match.

THEIR MIGHT not like to be termed one-day specialists, but two of Lancashire's masters of the limited-over format steered them to a stuttering victory over the old enemy.

Ian Austin's bowling was misery even by his own standards. His 12 overs went for just one run apiece, with his first spell of three runs from seven strangling the Yorkshire



Darren Gough, the Yorkshire and England bowler, sweeps the ball for two runs during Lancashire's victory at Old Trafford yesterday

Allsport

innings in its infancy. Austin also took the wickets of Bradly Parker and Gavin Hamilton and, with Wasim Akram and Peter Martin also bowling well, the visitor's total looked like to be even less challenging than their eventual 178.

Yorkshire owed their revival to Hamilton and Darren Gough, who took them close to respectability before Austin bowled Hamilton. Gough, after his supporting role in the berths of the third Test bere, was low for a top-scoring 42 to Martin, who then removed Richard Stump with his next ball.

If the target was modest, then

Lancashire did their best early in their innings to render it more formidable. Michael Atherton was out to Chris Silverwood for a duck and the dangerous Andrew Flintoff having announced his threat with three well-struck boundaries, fell to Gough.

When John Crawley provided Silverwood to Darren Lehmann's hands, the contest was showing distinct signs of turning Yorkshire's way. That wicket brought together Neil Fairbrother and Graham Lloyd, the two putting on 100 before Lloyd got an edge to Gough. Then Mike Watkinson went without scoring.

Fairbrother bad by now become

the only man to reach 50 in the game, and when Wasim's failure against Lehmann's slow left-arm made it three wickets in eight balls, the bowler fell squarely on him.

Fairbrother survived a difficult chance as Richard Blakely, as batting became harder in the gathering gloom, and there was still seven needed when Gough took his fourth wicket by bowling Warren Hegg.

The two experts in the nuances of the one-day game were appropriately together at the end. Fairbrother and Austin guiding Lancashire home with three overs to spare.

## Kent feel force of Lara revival

BRIAN LARA found his form with a vengeance yesterday. He compiled a masterful 133 on a difficult batting surface at Edgbaston to lead Warwickshire to a 167-run victory over Kent in the second round of the NatWest Trophy.

Kent had not enjoyed the best of times since returning to the county for a second season. Short of runs this summer, the West Indies captain survived a shaky start yesterday to score his maiden NatWest century. His 133 came off 156 balls with 16 fours and a six and helped Warwickshire to reach a formidable 303 for 6 after Kent's captain, Trevor Ward, had put them in.

Kent's slim hopes were then reduced still further when Graeme Wells took a competition best of 4 for 31. They slipped to 136 all out in 42.1 overs, to record their worst NatWest defeat.

Vince Wells and Aftab Habib put together a fifth-wicket partnership of 132 in 32 overs to guide Leicestershire to a five-wicket victory over Glamorgan in Cardiff. After bowling out Glamorgan for 188, Leicestershire were wobbling at 42 for 4, with Steve Watkin taking three wickets in a magnificent opening spell. Although Habib went for 67, Leicestershire won with 4.4 overs to spare.

Surrey also needed to be rescued after slumping to 20 for 4 at Bristol, but Alec Stewart, with 88, and Adam Hollioake, with 88, put on 156 to help Surrey to 215. Gloucestershire were always off the pace in their reply and were bowled out for 163.

At Trent Bridge, Nottinghamshire scored a thrilling victory over Somerset. Chasing 259, they edged home by one wicket with three balls to spare.

## Dutch sees off Durham

BY HENRY BLOFELD  
at Southgate

Durham 240-8  
Middlesex 244-8  
Middlesex win by two wickets

DAVID BOON must have felt like an England captain as he watched Durham's bowlers cave in to the pressure at Southgate and allow Middlesex to score 244 for 8 and win by two wickets with an over to spare after at one stage being reduced to 129 for 7. Richard Johnson, with 45 not out in 27 balls, and Keith Dutch, 49 not out in 53 balls, put the final 66 in seven frenzied overs at the end.

The slow pitch had frustrated the earlier Middlesex batsmen and only Justin Langer, with 47 in 100 balls, had made any impression against good, tight seam bowling. When Jason Fooley was seventh out it looked all over for Middlesex as Alastair Fraser joined Dutch.

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN  
in Edinburgh

Yorkshire 178-9  
Lancashire 178-7  
Lancashire win by three wickets

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It was understandable then that

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hustled his way to 11 before falling to

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Scots' ratio of joy went.

Not even the weather was on their

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# Liverpool pledge to retain Owen

BY DAVID ANDERSON

LIVERPOOL ARE prepared to meet Michael Owen's future contract demands to keep him at Anfield. Owen has become one of the hottest properties in the game following his outstanding displays for England at the World Cup.

The 18-year-old signed a long-term £10,000-a-week contract last year and the Liverpool club executive, Rick Parry, says the club is optimistic that it will always be able to meet his financial demands.

"He's always been a very special talent," Parry said yesterday. "It's going to be a case of keeping it all in balance and making sure that Michael remains very much part of the team and family. We hope we will always be in a position to match Michael's aspirations financially. We fervently hope that over the next decade or so Michael will achieve everything he wants to in terms of trophies and medals here."

Liverpool could brighten Owen's commitment to the Anfield cause by offering him an improved contract, but the club claim there is nothing on the table at the moment.

Owen's name will be top of most leading European sides' shopping lists. Juventus claimed last week that they had tried to buy him, but Parry revealed no club had made an offer for him. "There has been a lot of talk in the media and a lot of speculation, but the path to our door is untraveled," he said.

Parry has no doubts that Owen will be able to handle additional pressure because of his family background. Owen still lives at the family home in Hawarden, North Wales. Parry said: "His father is an ex-professional and he has a very stable background. If there's such a thing as an ideal background, then he has got it."

On the blue side of Merseyside, Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, yesterday launched a fierce attack on Howard Kendall, who left Goodison last month. He accused Kendall of taking the Merseyside club backwards in his third spell in charge, when the Blues survived relegation by goal difference on the final day of the campaign.

Johnson said: "As everyone knows, we'd struggled the season before, but we had had a good start. But I don't think there was a memorable event throughout the whole season,

apart from playing Liverpool at Goodison. It was a terrible indictment of the whole club that we went backwards. As we got close to the end of the season, Howard and I discussed the situation and it was then arranged that, at some stage during the summer, we would be making a change. So we sat down and we parted."

Johnson bore the brunt of Everton supporters' frustrations throughout the season, culminating in angry scenes outside Goodison Park when Kendall left the club. But the former Tranmere chairman refuses to give up on making the Blues great again. "I enjoy the job I have here at Everton," Johnson said. "Of course, I'd enjoy it a lot more if we were successful and that is my ambition - to make it successful."

"As far as the criticism goes, I can understand some of the fans. They feel frustrated. All I'd ask them to realise is that I feel as frustrated as they do. They feel I've got the ability and the wherewithal to change, but it doesn't change overnight. It's going to be a lot of hard work. I think the appointment of Walter [Smith] and Archie [Knox] as his assistant is a big step in the right direction."

Smith has stated that he plans to introduce new faces at Goodison Park before the season starts at home to Aston Villa on 15 August, but he will be allowing the current squad adequate time to prove themselves.

"I don't think there's any doubt that if we get the opportunity to add to the squad, we'll be doing that," Smith said. "We can try and do that over the next couple of weeks, but it will be interesting for us to have a look at everyone who is here. Everybody here will be given a good opportunity to prove themselves."

Everton have already been linked with both the Nigerian World Cup player Taribo West and the former Goodison winger Andrei Kanchelski, who is now with Fiorentina, but Smith has denied that names are in the frame. "It's not at that stage," Smith said. "Speculation surrounds clubs when managers come in and there will obviously be a turnover of staff."

"How many players we bring in and how many players leave will depend exactly on what we see with in our squad of players. There are one or two players in Scotland you'd like to get your hands on, but it is early days to be talking about that."

Liverpool are determined to keep one of the World Cup's brightest stars, Michael Owen, at Anfield

## Robson plans double signing

BY ALAN NIXON

BRYAN ROBSON, the Middlesbrough manager, wants to sign Teddy Sheringham in his second raid on his old club, Manchester United.

Robson hopes to be successful in his bid for Sheringham after persuading Alex Ferguson to part with the central defender Gary Pallister. The move for Sheringham depends on financial terms.

United want their money back on Sheringham - they paid Tottenham £1.5m for him a year ago - so they can attract the Argentinian Ariel Ortega, but Robson is offering less.

Sheringham was left out of the side at the end of last season and Ferguson is planning to bring in a new face to his attack before the campaign kicks off.

Robson is not worried about the Sheringham's age, 32, and hopes the striker will join fellow England players Paul Gascoigne and Paul Merson on Teesside.

Pallister completed his £2.5m move back to Middlesbrough from Manchester United yesterday. The 33-year-old former England centre-back has agreed a three-year contract with Boro nine years after he left Teesside in a then British record £2.3m move to Old Trafford.

Robson has been a huge admirer of Pallister since they played together for Manchester United and England, and he was delighted to have finally got his man.

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"With Derek Whyte leaving the club last season and Nigel Pearson retiring, we needed someone to provide competition for the centre-back places with Gianluca Festa and Steve Vickers.

"I'm sure Pall will prove to be a great signing."

Pallister will be unveiled at a press conference today at the Riverside Stadium along with another new signing, Dean Gordon from Crystal Palace.

Pallister, who won every domestic honour with United, became surplus to requirements at Old Trafford following the arrival of Jaap Stam, the Dutch World Cup centre-back, from PSV Eindhoven for a record £10.5m.

Pallister first joined Boro in 1984 from the Northern League club Billingham Town and he helped the club into the top flight before he left in 1989.

The deal represents good business for Manchester United, who have made a £200,000 profit on the player, despite having him for the best part of his career.

## Oscar says Newcastle want him

THE BARCELONA striker Oscar Garcia claimed yesterday that Newcastle United had made a bid of £4m for him.

Oscar, as he is usually known at the Catalan club, was a member of Spain's 1996 Olympic squad and scored twice during the preliminary round matches in Atlanta, but has yet to make the transition to Spain's senior team.

"It is flattering that Newcastle want to sign me, but they will have to pay my buy-out clause of 1,000 million pesetas (£4m) because I am still under contract to Barcelona," Oscar said. However, he added that Newcastle had indicated they were prepared to meet his asking price.

Oscar was a regular member of Johan Cruyff's first team during the last season of the Dutchman's coaching reign at Barcelona but in

the last two seasons, under Bobby Robson and then Louis van Gaal, he has been reduced to a back-up role. Last season, he played in only 16 league matches and scored a solitary goal. In May, he was one of the players whom Van Gaal declared be wanted to sell.

Blackburn are set to sell their striker James Beattie to Southampton for around £1m. It will be the third major deal between the two Premiership clubs this summer, with Beattie following in the footsteps of the former England winger Stuart Ripley, who joined Saints earlier this week. Rovers spent £7.25m in recruiting their record signing, Kevin Davies, from The Dell last month.

The Blackburn manager, Roy Hodgson, claims he is still looking for players despite spending nearly £12m

on new talent this summer. As well as signing Davies he spent £3m on Sebastian Perez and £1m on James Corbett, while he also signed Darren Peacock on a free transfer from Newcastle under the Bosman ruling.

Hodgson says he is pleased with his four new recruits, but added he has not put the cheque book away just yet. "We have signed four very, very good players as well as Callum Davidson, whom I regard as a new player basically because he hardly played a match for us last season," he said.

"I feel the squad we have is quite capable of good things next season and while there's a limit to the number of players you can bring in, I'm still keeping an eye out for a good deal."

Aston Villa have sold the Portuguese international defender

Fernando Nelson to Porto for £1.1m. The 26-year-old right-back moved to Villa from Sporting Lisbon for £1.7m two years ago.

Villa have also insisted that Dwight Yorke will not be sold to Manchester United. Last season the Villa manager, John Gregory, said the Trinidad and Tobago international would cost £1.5m.

Villa's secretary, Steve Stride, yesterday described the latest rumours linking Yorke with a move to Old Trafford as "scurrilous".

Terry Venables has appointed Terry Fenwick and Ted Buxton to his coaching staff at Crystal Palace. Fenwick, the former England international, becomes first team coach after leaving Portsmouth, where he was manager alongside Venables. Buxton becomes personal assistant to the new Palace manager.

CELTIC BEGIN their two-match tour of the Netherlands today without a full-time manager. Fifty-eight days after Wim Jansen walked out of Parkhead, Eric Black will take charge of the Scottish champions when they take on the amateurs of FC Hollandia in the small town of Hoorn.

Only two weeks before Celtic begin their Champions' League campaign against St Patrick's Athletic from the Republic of Ireland, the club are in the same situation they found themselves just 12 months ago when Tommy Burns was dismissed as manager.

Jock Brown, the club's general manager, has indicated they have found a replacement for Jansen, who led Celtic to their first championship for 10 years only to walk out 48 hours later. The appointment is expected

to be made public soon, possibly after the World Cup finishes on Sunday.

Gerard Houllier, the former France manager and now the French federation's technical director, is widely believed to be the man at the top of Celtic's list.

Houllier has been approached by a number of clubs and publicly stated at the weekend he felt closest to Celtic, but he is refusing to elaborate while the World Cup finals are still in progress.

The Rangers coach, Dick Advocaat, needs to keep looking for a top-class goalkeeper now that Stefan Klos is staying at Borussia Dortmund. With Andy Goram released from Ibrox, the Finn Antti Niemi is currently the number one at the club, but he remains untested.

Advocaat knew there was a major

doubt about Klos's arrival because of his legal wrangle. Klos is believed to have given up his legal fight because of the huge costs involved.

His deal with Dortmund expired at the end of June but the club used a clause in his contract to extend it for another season.

A court last month ruled Klos was not free to join Rangers, overturning an earlier ruling in his favour.

Even if Klos changes his mind and wins a final appeal to the Federal Labour Court, the legal process is likely to take many months.

It is understood Advocaat has two players at the top of his list, fellow Dutchman Ruud Hesp and Auxerre's Lionel Charbonnier. Hesp is currently the back-up goalkeeper at Barcelona and he is likely to be more available than Charbonnier, who is in France's World Cup squad.

## Celtic's search nears end

### Victory in Warwickshire.

Church bells rang out in Warwickshire yesterday, signalling victory over Kent in the Second Round of the NatWest Trophy.

Remember their final defeat against Essex last year. So did they.

NatWest

More than just a bank

# Football the loser as Dutch fall



RAY  
WILKINS

ALTHOUGH BRAZIL were my original tip to win the World Cup and although I think they will emerge victorious on Sunday, I have to say that the tournament lost its best footballing side in the Stade Vélodrome on Tuesday night. The Netherlands would have been worthy winners of France 98.

Their control of the ball and the way they retained possession was an example to all and helped take the game away from the Brazilians. The South Americans are not used to having the majority share of the ball and in the first half they didn't know how to cope with it. The result was that when they did gain possession they gave it away cheaply; something you don't often see from a Brazilian side.

I admired the football that the Dutch produced in the first half against Argentina and they did the same again on Tuesday. It is a shame they couldn't go on to win the game. A nation that consistently throws up so many gifted players, players with sound temperaments, as well as outstanding skill, deserves to be crowned world champions. The big thing in their favour is that they are a generally young side and the nucleus will still be around in four years' time.

Brazil looked nervy and ruffled in the first half but grew stronger the longer the game went on and they probably had the better chances in the second half to make the game safe.

I thought the turn that Ronaldo executed on the half-way line to get away from Frank de Boer in the final 30 minutes was sensational. If that moment did not lift everybody out of their seats then nothing will – it encapsulated everything that you expect from Ronaldo and everything that is exciting about forward play at its best – combining pace, power and strength. When he turned De Boer, whom I rate as one of the world's great players, the defender had a look on his face as if to say "someone please help". Jaap Stam did enough to delay Ronaldo and that gave De Boer the chance to make his saving tackle.

Ronaldo has attracted his critics in this competition but some of the things he has done have been sublime. We have to remember he is only 21 and has been up against some top-class defenders. Both Stam and De Boer did well against him in Marseilles but they learned the hard way that to neglect him for one moment is to tempt severe punishment.

The Brazilian goal proved that as De Boer stepped up to catch him offside only for Philip Cocu to play him on. The first touch from Ronaldo had to be good because anything less and he would not have been able to get



Joy is unconfined for Brazil after beating the Netherlands on penalties on Tuesday to reach their second successive World Cup final Georges Gobet/AFP

his shot in so quickly. He made it look simple when it was anything but.

Obviously it didn't help the Dutch cause that they were without Marc Overmars, but the Brazilians were more affected by the loss of Cafu. Ze Carlos was a problem for them defensively and going forward he was unfortunate for the Arsenal man. Brazil were clearly wary of his threat and marked him closely but it never surprises me in a game of that importance to see players of his calibre nullified. The other team set their stall out to keep them quiet.

Patrick Kluivert scored an exceptional goal to bring the Dutch back and he perhaps should have done better with two headers before that. His movement in the penalty area and his use of the ball was exceptional and he put Dennis Bergkamp in the shade. It was unfortunate for the Arsenal man. Brazil were clearly wary of his threat and marked him closely but it never surprises me in a game of that importance to see players of his calibre nullified. The other team set their stall out to keep them quiet.

Brazil should now go on to take the trophy because you get the feeling that they can outscore anybody at anytime. It's not just about Ronaldo, they can also rely on Rivaldo to score and the likes of Denilson and I've a hunch Brazil will start with him on Sunday instead of Bebeto.

However their defensive weaknesses place them at a level below the great Brazilian teams of the past. Those sides would score freely but they could defend properly as well. On Tuesday Brazil allowed Kluivert and Co too many chances and it

might have brought their World Cup to a halt.

It was just as well that Taffarel was on his game and he came good in the penalty shoot-out, going the right way every time and making two crucial saves. The technique of the Brazilian penalties impressed me and it is interesting that their coach, Mario Zagallo, has them taking three penalties apiece after each training session. They all pulled the ball (for right-footed players that means placing it to the goalkeeper's right) rather than pushing

it and that way they can generate more power.

It remains the most upsetting way to go out of the competition, the worst of all hurdles at which to stumble because if you lose in the final at least you have taken part in the world's most important game. We all dream about playing in a World Cup final but when you saw the strain on the faces of the Dutch players as they stepped up to take their turn from 12 yards would we really have wanted to swap places with them?



## DIARY

IT IS a problem we feared was afflicting all of us: sad, obsessive World Cup-watching and, sadly, confirmation has now arrived from Israel: We are all likely to have put on a few pounds over the past month. A survey conducted by an Israeli diet food company discovered that 75 per cent of Israeli men have gained between 3.3lb and 5.5lb watching France 98 through an excessive intake of junk food and long sessions on the couch.

One fan will not be distressed to have gathered a few extra pounds at the end of the tournament. Adrian Fitzpatrick, a flower importer from Birmingham, will earn £54,500 from the bookmakers William Hill if Brazil triumph in Sunday's final. The 41-year-old father of four wagered £18,000 at odds of 30-1 last June that Arsenal would win the Premiership and Brazil the World Cup. Mr Fitzpatrick, it has been revealed, is no stranger to big winnings, having collected £395,000 when Brazil won the World Cup in 1994.

It was not just their World Cup hopes that went down the pan on Tuesday night... the water system in the Netherlands was put under the severest strain because 11 million Dutch waited until the breaks in the semi-final to use the bathroom. "In the pauses and between the extra-time session and the penalty shoot-out the toilets got massive use," said DHV, a engineering consultant company. Someone even took the trouble to produce a graph showing that 65 per cent more water was used during the interval of the Brazil game compared with the corresponding period of the Argentina match.

A word of warning to Ronaldo, Rivaldo and all those other would-be shirt-swappers at the end of Sunday's final. When England's Roger Hunt changed jerseys with the West German defender Wolfgang Weber at the end of the 1986 World Cup final he presumably cannot have given thought to the possibility that the swap-shop would cost him £35,000 in later life. Today at Sotheby's the red No 8 shirt goes under the hammer and is expected to realise £50,000. Hunt is putting Weber's shirt up at the same time but it is only expected to fetch £15,000.

Take that. In a piece of impeccable timing the largest Dutch bank, ABN Amro, announced yesterday that it is taking over the Brazilian bank Banco Real, for \$2.1bn.

Compiled by Trevor Haylett

# Fiction mirrors truth in Cantona double-act



ANDY  
MARTIN  
AT LARGE IN  
FRANCE



WHAT IS the difference between a football match and a film? Answer: you can use your hands in the film. That is a Cantona joke. Not Eric, but his younger brother Joel (aged 30).

Until as recently as 1985 he was playing for Stockport County. Then he started appearing in ads and, a year or two back, in the film *Le Bonheur est dans le pré* with his big brother. Now he has returned to his roots in Marseilles to shoot *Les Colleagues*, a comedy written and directed by Philippe Dajou, in which he plays a cunning coach character.

I would hesitate to compare them in footballing terms, but to my eye Joel Cantona is certainly the better-looking brother (Eric, if you're reading this, I'm just kidding – somewhere between Alain Delon and Jean-Paul Belmondo).

This is the plot: a small amateur football club is threatened with closure by the local council, who want to put a swimming pool up on the ground. The only way they can save themselves is by winning *La Mondiallette*, a competition in Marseilles run in parallel with *Le Mondial* (ie the World Cup), with a prize of 300,000 francs attached.

But they are anything but a great team – with one deaf player the plot is that in this case the council

is not only not planning to put a swimming pool in its place, they had already closed the pool too, and the football club was just next on the list. Now it seems likely that the club is going to be saved from closure by appearing in the film as a club that is saved from closure.

*Les Colleagues* is also shrewdly exploiting the opportunities offered by the World Cup in Marseilles. The first day of shooting coincided with the Netherlands-Argentina quarter-final, when the filmic team drove around the *Vieux Port* using the teeming crowds as their teeming crowds, and not having to pay them a penny as extras. Next, they cruised over to the Prado beach with the giant screen and, at half-time, went on stage carrying a cup and persuaded 20,000-odd fans to cheer. I hope I have not given away too much of the ending here.

The Cantonas' dad is acting in the film too, oddly enough playing the part of Cantona's dad. "He's never acted before," Joel said, with *Le Mistral* whipping dust into our eye. "But in a way he's never stopped acting for the last 50 years. In Marseilles, you're always acting. You play *pétanque*, and it's a performance. Everything is externalised here." There is also a strong cinematic tradition in Marseilles: Marcel Pagnol filmed here, and Fernandel.

But everything the Cantonas learned, they learned in their quarter of *Les Calibos*. "Football and acting these are just different means of expressing yourself," Cantona said. In this film though – as in certain notorious moments in this World Cup – football and acting are not even different means of self-expression but merge into

one. Joel's remarks seemed to clear up some of the mystery about Eric too: for all those who have worried over whether Cantona the elder, in so much of what he says and does, is for real or bluffing, the answer is: he is really bluffing, faking everything with total authority.

The other thing that explained quite a lot about Eric was the book of his I picked up in a local second-hand store, *Un rêve modeste et fou*, which reveals that he used to have a poster of Bruce Lee on his wall as a kid.

There was a part in the film that would have fitted me like a glove: a guy with short white hair who takes himself for Ravanelli. Unfortunately, another guy with short white hair had already filled it in the shape of Cyril Lecomte. He told me that the film is really all about

## Americans want Kendall

HOWARD KENDALL is being offered a quick return to management as the coach of the United States national side in succession to Steve Sampson, writes Alan Nixon.

The United States Soccer Federation is making an approach for Kendall, dismissed by Everton last month, and he is likely to agree to the new challenge.

Kendall is still highly rated abroad, where his previous record at Everton is remembered along with his CV which includes spells in Spain and Greece.

The chance of a new start across the Atlantic will appeal to Kendall, whose chances of a top job in

England are limited after a bad season at Everton.

Kendall's signings and player relations were criticised and yesterday Everton's chairman, Peter Johnson, criticised him for "putting the club back".

However Kendall has the type of image and respect that the Americans are looking for after a poor World Cup, during which Sampson had a succession of disagreements over tactics and selection with several senior players, including Aled Lala and Tab Ramos. The Americans went out at the first stage, scoring only one goal and failing to gain a point.

THE

## THE GLOBAL GAME

### THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

Stephen Brunt, football writer with the *Globe and Mail*, Canada, gives his view on Brazil's progress to the final

"They have been good enough to win on their worst night, to win when they did not play like a team, when their own confidence, their own arrogance, put them peril again and again. They have been good enough to lose a game when it didn't matter, and still go marching on.

They are the Brazilians, and the Brazilians are like no one else, because they are better, because they are

blessed, because the game is theirs.

And now, an unprecedented fifth World Cup is within their reach after a desperately close, wonderfully exciting match that Brazil eventually won on penalty kicks after the score was tied at 1-1 following extra time.

Until then, the Netherlands team, backed by a hooting, singing orange army that split the Stade Vélodrome evenly with Brazil's own canary legions, had seemed set to defy their disappointing World Cup past, which includes losing the final in 1974 and 1978.

Now France or Croatia will try and derail destiny, try to beat the odds of history – only once have Brazil lost a final, in 1950 at home to Uruguay, the first time they had been that far.

Four other teams triumphed, three of them triumphs of athleticism and style, and one, four years ago, that were considerably more workmanlike. This Brazil team, with one game to play, are still difficult to categorise, their best moments so wonderful, their worst so pedestrian.

But, like the others, they seem to hold enough cards."

## QUOTES OF THE DAY

If we win I don't expect them to build a statue for me. But, if we lose, they'll kill me. Dunga, the Brazilian captain, accepts his role in their campaign.

Now isn't the time to celebrate. Mário Zagallo, the Brazilian coach, looks forward to Sunday.

We really could have beaten this Brazilian side. I believe they were afraid of us. Philip Cocu, one of two Dutch players to miss in the penalty shoot-out, wonders what might have been. It's much easier on the pitch than it is on the sidelines. Outside you suffer a lot. I can't wait to get back. Cafu, Brazil's right-back, suffers on the bench after being suspended for the semi-final.

# Ronatko's skill baffles Brian de Bore

IT'S TAKEN a long time to happen, but Bob Wilson has finally picked up a tip from the BBC's Des Lynam. No, he's not grown a moustache, or developed a personality or even cut down on his verbiage. On Tuesday he simply borrowed Des' infamous technique of emotionally blackmailing the viewers as he signed off. Remember how Des swung England's Euro 96 semi-final the BBC's way in the programme beforehand by eyeing the camera directly and saying: "You will be here, won't you?" Well, ITV and BBC go head-to-head for the first time in this tournament for the final on Sunday, and so every trick will be used to fight for an audience. Wilson's closing gambit was to remind us that commentator Brian Moore is retiring after Sunday, and he exhorted us

STAN HEY

VIEW FROM  
THE  
ARMCHAIR



"not miss Brian's special day". All together now - aah!

The only problem with this invitation is that Brian has performed so wretchedly during this World Cup that he must have all but drained the viewers' reservoir of goodwill towards him. Leaving aside his dreadful gaff before David Batty's penalty, he has consistently misidentified players, thereby

falling in the first duty of any commentator, and has also pre-judged games so often in the pursuit of hype, that he really doesn't deserve a further hearing.

"This is the real final!" Moore declared before the Brazil-Netherlands game, setting up expectations that couldn't be fulfilled. "It does look a game of goals," he asserted early in a barren first half, defying the history and tactical logic of all recent World Cup semi-finals. Not since France-West Germany in 1982 have we had a semi-final tie with a glut of goals. They are, by tradition, tense, nervous and arid affairs and it was almost wilfully misleading of Moore to suggest that this game would be otherwise. It took Ruud Gullit, still a virgin in ITV's ways, to bring some perspective by pointing

out that there was "a lot of bad passing and not much excitement".

Moore had indicated early on that this wasn't to be one of his better nights by suddenly announcing that "unless I'm going crackers, I think Denilson's on". But the £20 Brazilian was emphatically still on the bench. His other eccentric contributions included confusing Jaap Stam for Pierre van Hooijdonk (different positions, radically different skin colours), Brian, creating a third de Boer brother, "Robert", and as the Dutch defence closed on Ronaldinho describing the Brazilian as being "surrounded by a swarm of yellow shirts". He was also prone to just uttering a short "oh", in the manner of the two perverted men's tailors in *The Fast Show*.

However, Moore was at least for-

tunate in having Ron Atkinson as his guide dog on the night, because Big Ron played a blinder. Unemployed manager he may be, but he can still bring a coach's insight to the game and then express it in succinct vernacular terms that the public can understand.

While

Moore was waffling about

Ze Carlos, the novice Brazilian right-back, wacking his team-mates by impersonating a cockerel, Ron was

sizing up the new man like a fox stalking a hen. Sure enough, all the Netherlands' early enterprise came down their left side. Even as the first half drew a blank, Ron was pointing out "a lot of cat and mouse stuff going on all over the field", which Brian de Bore translated more prosaically as "a chess match".

At the end of the interval, Glenn

Hoddle, gesturing to no great effect, took a leaf out of Brian's book and tipped the Netherlands to win, the immediate effect being a Brazilian goal by Ronaldo.

Meanwhile Ronatko also continued to score, explaining how Brazil had shut down the Dutch left side and, a touch belatedly perhaps, realising that "I've never seen Bergkamp have a more insignificant game".

As extra time loomed, thanks to Patrick Kluivert's wonderful equaliser, Brian was still doing his medicine man number, promising us "a wonderful jamboree", while Ruud gave a brilliant summary of this most pragmatic of Brazilian teams. "Mentally, they play for 1-0," he said.

Mentally, Moore plays for a five-

all draw, but the world of modern

football is beyond his Corinthian compass now. There are too many dense strategies, too much pace and too much calculating cynicism on the pitch for him to keep up with. I shall listen to him on Sunday night, more for nostalgia's sake than for enlightenment about the game, and I just hope he doesn't embarrass himself too much. Hopefully Big Ron will be allowed to look after him.

Meanwhile, the BBC used the

highlights of the Brazil-Netherlands match to give the rejected Barry Davies a run-out. Rather than sulking about missing the final, Davies

appeared to be enjoying himself by going completely native, coming up with the multi-syllabic "Ronaldooooohhh" to salute Brazil's goal.

May be Brian should try the same trick for his last hurrah?

## THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FRANCE 98

### TUESDAY'S LATE MATCH

#### Netherlands 1 Brazil 1

Set, score at 90 min: 1-1. Brazil win 4-2 on penalties

SEMI-FINAL: STADE VELODROME, MARSEILLES. ATT: 54,000

Goal: Kluivert 87  
Yellow cards: 4 (Reiziger, Davids, Van Hooijdonk, Seedorf).  
Red cards: 0  
Corners: 5  
Offsides: 5  
Free-kicks (against): 21  
Coach: Guus Hiddink

Goal: Ronaldo 46  
Yellow cards: 2 (Ze Carlos, Cesar Sampaio)  
Red cards: 0  
Corners: 4  
Offsides: 5  
Free-kicks (against): 9  
Coach: Mario Zagallo

### Running commentary

2 min: Van der Sar out to meet Ronaldo. Bergkamp floats ball just over crossbar.  
15 min: Stam blocks Ronaldo's shot close in.  
28 min: Kluivert heads close from Zenden's outstandingly accurate centre.  
30 min: Yellow card Ze Carlos (tackle from behind on Zenden).  
34 min: Zenden again centres low. Frank de Boer unable to get full contact at far post.  
40 min: Brazil alert against enterprise attacking by Zenden and Kluivert. Carlos importantly chests back to keeper.  
44 min: Yellow card Cesar Sampaio (foul).  
46 min: Long ball from Rivaldo finds Ronaldo who for first time has space in middle. Calmly places shot in.  
47 min: Yellow card Reiziger (foul).  
52 min: Taffarel saves breathtakingly off line

as Dutch press from corner.  
59 min: Yellow card Davids (foul).  
61 min: Van der Sar comes out to stop Ronaldo scoring again.  
65 min: Bergkamp plays short pass perfectly for Kluivert. Shot driven hard at Taffarel.  
73 min: Rivaldo sends Ronaldo away. Davids athletically catches him in area. Ball skims past post. Brazil claim penalty.  
79 min: Kluivert sidefoot over.  
87 min: Ronald de Boer centres. Kluivert rises high to head in equaliser.  
90 min: Yellow card Van Hooijdonk (diving).  
94 min: Ronaldo curls shot. Van der Sar pushes away at full stretch.  
96 min: Van Hooijdonk blasts good free-kick. Taffarel holds.  
106 min: Ronaldo stopped by Frank de Boer

### GOALSCORERS

#### FIVE GOALS

Christian Vieri (It) Gabriel Batistuta (Arg)

#### FOUR GOALS

Marcelo Salas (Chile) Luis Hernández (Mex) Davor Suker (Croat) Ronaldo (Bra)

#### THREE GOALS

Thierry Henry (Fr) Cesar Sampaio (Bra) Jürgen Klinsmann (Ger) Oliver Bierhoff (Ger) Bebeto (Bra) Dennis Bergkamp (Neth) Rivaldo (Bra)

#### TWO GOALS

Alan Shearer (Eng) Michael Owen (Eng) Roberto Baget (It) Abdellatif Haddad (Mor) Salaheddine Bassis (Mor) Shaun Bartlett (SA) Fernando Hierro (Sp) Francisco Morientes (Sp) Niki (Sp) Massimiliano (Bel) Philip Cocu (Neth) Ronald de Boer (Neth) Slobodan Konjenjovic (Yug) Ricardo Palazos (Mex) Vorel Moldovan (Rom) Ariel Ortega (Arg) Theodore Whitmore (Jam) Brian Laudring (Den) Patrick Kluivert (Neth)

#### ONE GOAL

John Collins (Sco) Craig barley (Sco) Dan Eggers (USA) Hamza (P) (Mor) David Jones (P) (Mor) Karel Rekdal (Nor) Mostafa Hadji (Mor) Luigi Di Biagio (It) Peter Njarki (Can) Erick Rhoma (Can) Anton Polster (Aut) Ivica Vastic (Aut) Andreac Herzog (Aut) Jose Luis Sierra (Chile) Marc Rieper (Den) Allan Nielsen (Den) Michael Laudring (Den) Peter Moller (Den)

### STATISTICS

6 BRAZIL'S VICTORY on Tuesday put them into the World Cup final for the sixth time (1950, 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 1998). That equals the record of West Germany (1954, 1966, 1974, 1982, 1986, 1990).

4 THE NUMBER of games in France 98 that have been decided on penalties.

14 THE NUMBER of games decided on penalties in the World Cup finals.

3 THE NUMBER of World Cup penalty shoot-outs Brazil have been involved in. They lost 4-3 to France in 1986 and beat Italy 3-2 in the 1994 final.

6 THE NUMBER of penalty shoot-outs between South American and European teams.

5 THE NUMBER of penalty shoot-outs South American teams have won against European teams.

TEAM OF THE DAY

THE INVISIBLE XI

A team of players who made the trip to France 98 but failed to make an appearance

Carlos Germano (Brazil)

Zoran Markic (Croatia)

André Dolzer (Netherlands)

Hector Pissis (Arg)

Jan Koller (Czech Rep)

Masashi Nakamura (Japan)

Michael Jorgensen (Den)

Robert Jari (Croat)

Goran Vlaovic (Croat)

Claudio Lopez (Arg)

### OWN GOALS

Tommy Boyd (Sco)

Youssef Choueiri (Mor)

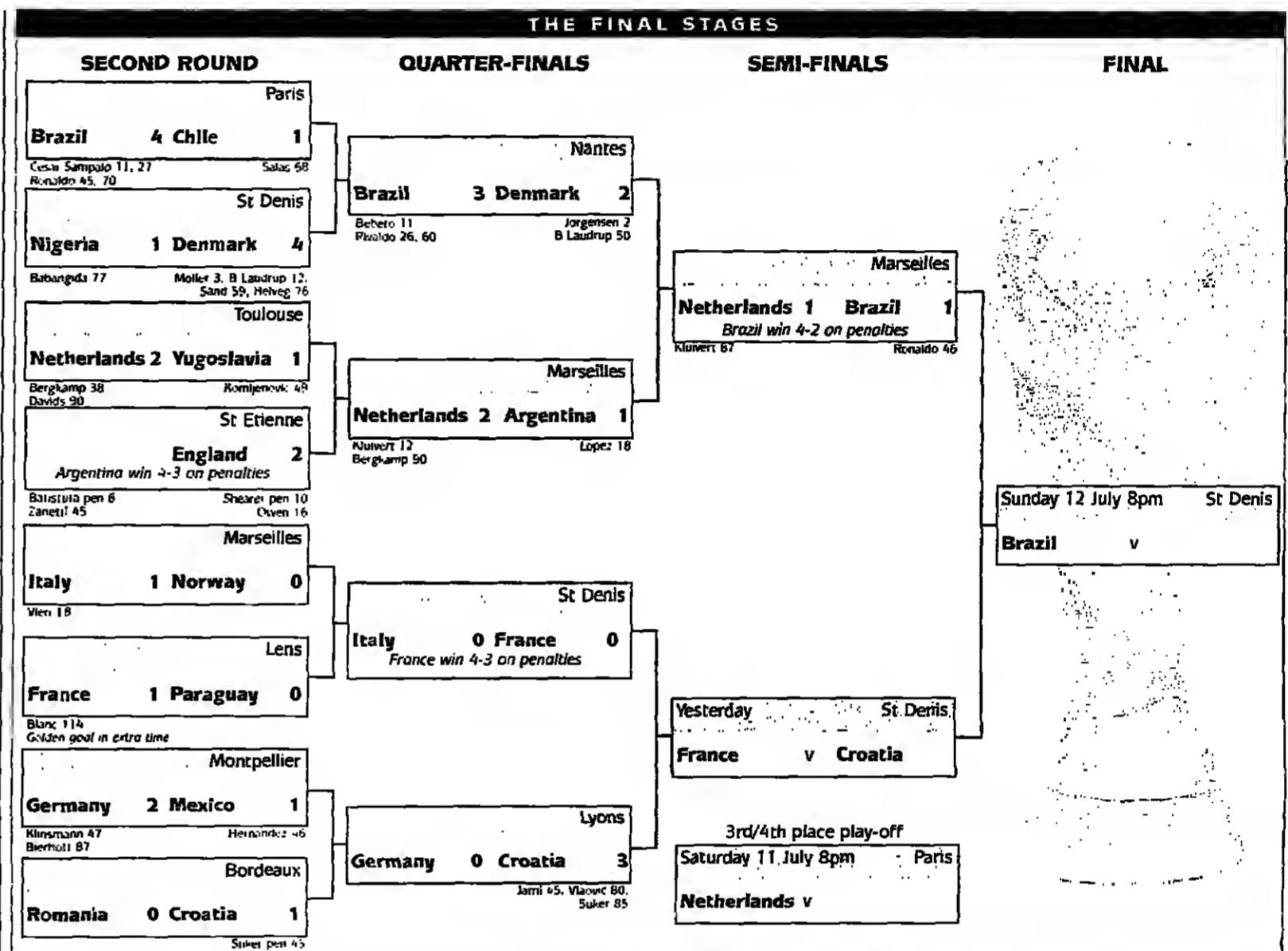
Pierre Issa (S Africa)

Stjepan Mihajlovic (Yug)

Les Ferdinand (England)

Simon Donnelly (Scotland)

Andrea Kozak (Croatia)



### GROUP STAGES

#### Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Brazil	3	2	0	1	6	3	6	+3
2 Norway	3	1	2	0	5	4	5	+1
3 Morocco	3	1	1	1	5	5	4	0
4 Scotland	3	0	1	2	2	6	1	-4

#### Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Italy	3	2	1	0	7	3	7	+4
2 Chile	3	0	3	0	4	4	0	0
3 Austria	3	0	2	1	3	4	2	-1
4 Cameroon	3	0	2	1	2	5	2	-3

#### Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 France	3	3	0	0	9	1	9	+8
2 Denmark	3	1	1	1	3	4	0	-1
3 S Africa	3	0	2	1	6	2	-3	-4
4 S Arabia	3	0	1	2	7	1	-5	-6

#### Group D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Nigeria	3	2	0	1	5	5	6	0
2 Paraguay	3	1	2	0	3	1	5	+2
3 Spain	3	1	1	1	8	4	4	+4

## SPORT

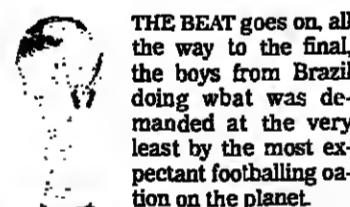
EUBANK RISES FOR ANOTHER SHOWTIME P24 • THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND MCLAREN P24



Lee Westwood crosses the bridge to the 11th at Loch Lomond yesterday on his way to a first-round 69 in the World Invitational. The Worksop golfer was two behind the leader, Ian Woosnam Report, page 27; Chris

## Brazil not quite a perfect blend

BY MARTIN LIPTON



THE BEAT goes on, all the way to the final, the boys from Brazil doing what was demanded at the very least by the most expectant footballing nation on the planet.

With Claudio Taffarel sprung to his right to take the air out of the Orange brass bands, the sound of the samba filling the Marseilles night, the triumph was acclaimed. But even as the silent – indeed, in some cases, quite open – prayers of the South

American bench were answered, it was clear that this Brazilian blend is not the smoothest.

Yes, of course they are a dream to watch coming forward – you would not expect anything more. Any team with Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Bebeto and Leonardo in the starting line-up, Denilson in reserve, will always captivate and excite.

With their silly combinations, intricate skills and, above all, the total conviction that they will prevail, it seems that nobody can withstand them for long. As Pele said of Ronaldo's goal against the Dutch in Tuesday's semi-final, taking Rivaldo's ball, holding off Philip Cocu and nut-

megging Edwin van der Sar, there are moments that sum up the Brazilian style. "That was the most beautiful moment of the match," Pele said. "Ronaldo proved he is a great player. He was, without a doubt, the man of the match."

So far, all that self-belief has been proven right, with Mario Zagallo's team on course to become only the second team in World Cup history following the side the coach was part of in Sweden in 1958 – to win on another continent.

Without doubt, the current crop – a better side than the one which won the title in the USA – are the rightful inheritors of the famous

and fabled yellow shirts. Yet there is still the thought that they are ready for the biggest fall of all, that the shock of the tournament is storing itself up ready to trap them.

Norway, in their miserable, anti-football style, proved in the group phase – as they had in Oslo last summer – that Zagallo's men are far from unbeatable. When they put the pressure on, with old-fashioned, long-ball tactics, the whole pack of cards folded in the space of 10 minutes. In a different, far more entertaining, way, Denmark showed up those inadequacies in the last eight, the Laudrup brothers both bowing out of international football by destruc-

turing the Brazilian back-line throughout the game.

The Netherlands did much the same on Tuesday, putting the Brazilians under pressure and watching them so eerily crack. It took a penalty shoot-out, after a 1-1 draw following extra time, before Brazil prevailed.

The problem is that defending is never a priority. Everybody wants to be Pele, Zico, Tostao or Ronaldo; nobody wants to be a stopper centre-half. Both Roberto Carlos and the first-choice right-back Cafu – sorely missed against the Dutch, who surely would have made even more inroads had Marc Overmars been fit

to run the stand-in Ze Carlos' ragged – are happier ploughing up the flanks, augmenting the attack. While both Junior Baiano and Aldair cut impressive physical figures, they do at times seem to have the mobility of statues.

Junior Baiano in particular, hampered by an injury, had a shocker against the Dutch, seemingly having forgotten that defenders are allowed to jump for the ball with opposing strikers.

Fortunately, on the night, as it was against the Danes, the luck was with them. Taffarel making a truly outstanding save to foil Frank de Boer just after Ronaldo's opener. Even so,

Patrick Kluivert should have taken advantage of the Brazilians' basic defensive failings long before he grabbed the goal that sent the semi-final into extra time.

The Milan forward, covered by Arsenal, was allowed five clear-cut chances in all, taking just the one and, if he had shown a fraction more composure in front of goal, the favourites would have been out.

He didn't, and they aren't, with just one more obstacle in front of them before they can lift the game's most cherished prize for a fifth time. But, if the Brazilians' luck runs out on Sunday, no one can say they were not warned.

## Dutch fall short of great predecessors

THE DUTCH football team took their first day off in four weeks yesterday. It was five days too early. Training, scheduled for the morning, was cancelled. No reason was given, but none was needed. The Netherlands lost 1-2 on penalties to Brazil in the World Cup semi-final after 120 minutes of open play had produced a 1-1 draw and were out of the tournament.

Yesterday, as Dutch fans slunk away from Marseilles, smiling through their tear-stained orange face paint, the squad retreated to the isolation of their cliff-top hotel near Monaco. The Dutch had hoped to go one step further than their predecessors in 1974 and 1978, who reached the final. In the end, they fell one hurdle short and, as four years ago, Brazil proved their downfall. Then it was the quarter-final, and the Dutch lost 3-2.

Comparisons have frequently been made to the side of 1974, a team regarded by many as the best not to have won the title. Then the Dutch boasted the likes of the Jóhanns, Cruyff and Neeskens. This Dutch side has slightly lesser talents, but have delighted the world with their play. The lack of an individual star such as Ronaldo, who scored on Tuesday, often left them short of the killer punch, but their forte was teamwork – some considered them the best unit in the tournament.

The manner of Tuesday's semi-final defeat also has some echoes of the 1978 final, when they lost to Argentina. Brazil,

reaching the final, the Dutch on Tuesday believed they had outplayed their opponents. In reality, the match was finely balanced, but the Dutch were certainly left to rue their missed chances and quietly to mull a few "What if's".

"It's always rather cheap to say that players weren't there. Overmars and Numans didn't play, but I don't want to search for excuses. We had a fine squad and the players on the field did a good job," Guus Hiddink, the coach, said.

Defeat should not mark the break-up of the Dutch squad. Two years on in Euro 2000, the same faces should appear, while in Japan and South Korea in 2002, age will only have caught up with two of Tuesday's starters, Wim Jonk and Dennis Bergkamp. The latter's fear of flying is also likely to rule him out.

Twenty years ago, Dick Nanninga struck in the 80th minute. On Tuesday, Patrick Kluivert headed in seven minutes later. In 1978, the Dutch had a golden chance to win, but Rob Rensenbrink's shot in the dying seconds struck the post.

Kluivert managed to push a shot just wide of the upright against Brazil, while two minutes from the end of extra time the Dutch had what they thought was a valid penalty appeal dismissed when Pierre van Hooijdonk's shirt was pulled. The Dutchman went down, but was booked for diving.

Unlike the 1978 side, who even surprised themselves by



De Boer: Hasty penalty

like Argentina 20 years before, took the lead and on both occasions the Dutch only equalised in the last minutes.

Twenty years ago, Dick Nanninga struck in the 80th minute. On Tuesday, Patrick Kluivert headed in seven minutes later. In 1978, the Dutch had a golden chance to win, but Rob Rensenbrink's shot in the dying seconds struck the post.

Ronald de Boer missed the fourth penalty against Brazil, ending his side's interest in the World Cup. "I should have waited just a moment longer and seen that the keeper was going one way," he said. The Dutch may have won friends in France for their play, but they have proved yet again that they like England and Italy, are losers at the penalty game.

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THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3658. Thursday 9 July By Spurio

Wednesday's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
11				12	13		
14				15			
16							
17				18			
19							
20				21			
22				23			
24				25			

ACROSS

- Initially unseen, people caught fish to poach (8)
- They're sometimes indicated by slips (6)
- The issue of offspring (6)
- Originally, sacred carving by Egyptian, possibly in form of beetle (6)
- Drink, one drunk with a pinch of cinnamon (5)
- Not difficult getting academic appointment for Morris, maybe? (4,5)
- Means to get rid of dirty habits? (7,8)
- One unlikely to be found in residence with wings (3)
- Happy to go topless in past? (5)
- School janitor's a rascal, artfully concealing illegal drug (9)
- Trophy for son, about to attain record (5)
- Hammer-thrower given a kiss on the chest (6)
- A spell or two in Oz? (8)
- Impudent child starts to exasperate even kind youth leader (6)
- Cut off from established order (8)
- Items taken from the Chinese revealing what happens in old Easter custom? (3-5)
- Talk on French beverage, and where it's produced? (7)
- Happy to go topless in past? (5)
- Course manual (7,4)
- Delicacies produced by Gibraltarian baker? (4,5)
- In a bedroom with one of the cardinals, side by side (7)
- Goldsmith's deserted village by bend in a stream (6)
- Hens cooped up on such occasions? (4,7)
- The information highway? (4,5)
- One of the "beginners" – they open in play (8)
- Lawyers' professional ethic which checks out? (3,4)
- Don't stay with a group ultimately lacking unity? (7)
- Rather sharp ice act in resort (6)
- Way to advertise flight (5)

DOWN

- Items taken from the Chinese revealing what happens in old Easter custom? (3-5)
- Talk on French beverage, and where it's produced? (7)
- Happy to go topless in past? (5)
- Course manual (7,4)
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- The information highway? (4,5)
- One of the "beginners" – they open in play (8)
- Lawyers' professional ethic which checks out? (3,4)
- Don't stay with a group ultimately lacking unity? (7)
- Rather sharp ice act in resort (6)
- Way to advertise flight (5)

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## Days and the confused

PEOPLE SOMETIMES complain to me that when National Leave Your Car At Home Day or National Give Up Smoking Day comes along, they haven't had adequate warning, so they never really get a chance to give up their car or their cigarettes.

Right. This is your last chance. I have compiled a list of the most significant designated Days, with a few notes on each, between now and the end of the year, which should be enough notice.

10 July "National No Queue-Jumping Day". This one is aimed at the most ruthless queue-barkers in our society, ie little old ladies. Stay in your place, gran! Wait your turn! Just for 24 hours...

13 July "National Root Vegetable Day". The organisers, the Root Vegetable Council,



**MILES KINGTON**

*The most significant designated Days between now and the end of the year*

are trying to raise awareness of things like swedes and turnips. Trouble is, most people can't even tell the difference between swedes and turnips. So people from the Root Vegetable Council are going out into the streets to challenge people to tell the difference and if they can, they will get a free swede. Or turnip.

19 July "National I'm-Not-That-Craig-Brown-I'm-Another-Craig-Brown-Day". This is on behalf of all the people called Craig Brown in Britain who get confused with the one man who has the maddening energy to manage the Scottish football team and review all those restaurants and write all that funny stuff.

22 July "National Overtipping Day".

27 July "National 'You May Well be Right' Day". The organisers feel it is time to cut down on confrontation in our society. Just for this one day, they say, why not avoid an argument and say, "You may well be right"?

4 Aug "National Read Some One Else's Newspaper Day".

7 Aug "National Peanut Day". The peanut has a hard time. It seems to attract allergies. It chokes people. The cuisine of Indonesia is seemingly based on peanut butter.

Yes, come to think of it, why should anyone want to eat peanuts, anyway? "You may well be right," says smiling Liki Shuktar, head of the Global Peanut Council.

17 Aug "National Adopt a Granny Day". There is always a constant drive to get children fostered, but not old people, who need it just as much. The Save The Aged Fund wants you to take in an old person just for the day, to see if the idea appeals, and you might do it full time.

30 Aug "National Parship Day". A sneaky effort by the Root Vegetable Council to get two days in 1998. Ignore.

5 Sep "National Bring Back The Monarchy Day". A puzzling one, this, as the monarchy has not yet been abolished. Perhaps Buckingham Palace are up to their tricks again.

8 Sep "National Use-A-Long-Word Day". Another government attempt to promote literacy. Among the long words they recommend are "multi-culturalism", "dominophilia" and "sanctimousness".

23 Sep "National Ring-The-Samaritans Day". Did you know that over 98 per cent of the calls received by the Samaritans are from people who can't manage? That's pretty damned depressing, especially if you're working for the Samaritans. So today ring them up - with a cheerful message! Cheer up a Samaritan!

1 Oct "National Leek Awareness Week". This sounds vaguely familiar.

24 Oct "National 'Don't I Know You From Somewhere?' Week". In an attempt to break down our usual social barriers, the organisers are urging us to accept total strangers. The police have promised not to prosecute.

3 Nov "National Retrain-A-Lord Day". As the abolition of the Upper House approaches, many an unemployable peer will be cast on the streets. Can you do your bit?

17 Nov "National Be Nice To A Scotsman Day". This will have a different name north of the border, where it will be known as "National 'Get-Lost-You-Patronising-English-Git' Day".

18 Nov "National Why-Don't-You-Forget-Christmas-Cards-This-Year? Day"

1 Dec "National Wipe-The-Top-Of-Your-Ketchup-Bottle-Before-You-Screw-The-Top-Back-On Day".

4 Dec "National Give-Catholicism-A-Try Day".

25 Dec "National Birth of Jesus Day".



The latest in our series celebrating 50 years of the NHS shows preparations under way in the operating theatre at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge

Brian Harris

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

### Global trade

Sir: Lord Clinton-Davis states (letters, 6 July) that international trade in genetically modified foods is governed by the World Trade Organisation and that the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, currently under negotiation, will not affect the right of countries to restrict their import.

Unfortunately, this is very far from

clear. Experience under agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta), where major corporations have used non-discriminatory clauses to override environmental protection and health regulations, shows that practice

under the MAI is likely to be much worse. As an example, the *Economist* reported (18 April) that US tobacco

firms claim that a Canadian requirement that health warnings on cigarette packets should be bigger than the brand name amounts to expropriation of their assets, which

would allow them to sue for

compensation. The MAI, which has

been referred to as "Nafia on

steroids", goes much further to

undermine national sovereignty in

favour of rights for multinationals. It is an extremely dangerous

agreement that must be stopped.

TONY JUMPER

Campaigns and Policy Director

Friends of the Earth

London N1 7

detained are to prevent the separation of children from their families, or when an unaccompanied child arrives late at night at one of our ports when the Immigration Service is unable to make immediate contact with social services.

The Government is committed to meeting all its international obligations and our policies are fully consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

MIKE O'BRIEN MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Home Office

London SW1

that they are overpaid and under

worked simply because the Lord

Chancellor, so far as lawyers are

concerned, seeks to stir up hostility

to mask his intention to destroy the

availability of legal aid which helps

make justice accessible to the poor

and should be improved to help the

middle classes as well. To

concentrate upon a mere handful of

lawyers making millions (so it is

said) in a handful of cases is as bad

as making the false assumption that

every medical consultant is a

millionaire.

STANLEY BEST

Winkleigh

Devon

### Profit from rail

Sir: I was interested to see a small piece in today's *Independent* (Railtrack sale, 7 July) about Railtrack's planned sale of between £750m and £900m worth of property leases in London.

As Liberal Democrat transport spokesman at the time of Railtrack's privatisation, I argued that such sales would inevitably take place, and that the profit-sharing agreement should be heavily weighted in favour of the taxpayer and not the Railtrack shareholder.

As it is, there is little to stop the £900m Railtrack will be allowed to keep from making its way straight into the shareholders' pockets. And while the article made no mention of what Railtrack's intentions are in this regard, I could not help but note that the piece appeared in your business pages, rather than in the news section.

DAVID CHIDGLEY MP

House of Commons

that they are overpaid and under

worked simply because the Lord

Chancellor, so far as lawyers are

concerned, seeks to stir up hostility

to mask his intention to destroy the

availability of legal aid which helps

make justice accessible to the poor

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lawyers making millions (so it is

said) in a handful of cases is as bad

as making the false assumption that

every medical consultant is a

millionaire.

STANLEY BEST

Winkleigh

Devon

### Rough sleepers

Sir: Any attempt to tackle rough

sleeping and homelessness in Britain

must take account of the appalling

conditions in which people live.

Rough sleepers have the worst

health of any group in the country and

often lack access to primary care

because of the difficulties they

experience in registering with a

doctor. They suffer not only from

serious physical ill health but are

more likely to experience painful

mental health problems.

The Government's initiative to

reduce the incidence of rough

sleeping must give priority to the

health needs of this vulnerable

group of people. Measures to improve

access to local health services must

be coordinated with the efforts to get

people off the streets.

Rough sleepers also need access

to appropriate accommodation.

Many are reluctant to use shelters,

for example, because of concerns

about poor hygiene, the threat of

violence and overcrowded

conditions.

The Under One Roof project,

funded by the King's Fund, is making

a start in tackling these issues by

bringing together health and other

local services to meet the needs of

homeless people in south London.

Any permanent solution to the

shame of rough-sleeping in our

society must encompass action to

bring health services into strategies

to tackle it.

RABBI JULI JUERBERGER

Chief Executive

King's Fund

London W1

## IN BRIEF

Sir: "Outlook" (1 July) claimed that the OFT had had "an indifferent year" because "one third of its merger recommendations have been ignored by Margaret Beckett".

The President of the Board of Trade took differing views to me in just three of 165 merger cases advised on last year. I explained that I accepted this as the normal and indeed

healthy working of competition

regulation and that it did not reflect

any dissatisfaction with the quality of

the OFT's advice.

JOHN S BRIDGEMAN

Director General of Fair Trading

London EC4

Sir: Surely the main objection to the

Althorp temple is that the Princess

would have approved.

ROBERT DAVIES

Lee Park, London SE

Sir: With reference to the caption

below "Thought for Today" (7 July)

may I point out that Thomas Carlyle

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## Why take such a defensive view of foreign policy?

THE GOVERNMENT'S Strategic Defence Review has come and has finally passed off with more fuss about the manner of its publication than its contents. The leak should not actually worry anyone too much. The review was the result of a consultative process that involved everyone from the Chief of Staff to local councils. There was little left in it worth leaking by the end, however sensitive ministers have become over the proprieties of "House of Commons first".

That is no reason to dismiss the contents, which are in many ways sensible and reformist. Britain is moving from a static to a more interventionist approach to defence. Transportation, weapons and integration between the forces ("jointness", to use the terrible jargon word) are being revised as a result. You can argue with the details. The Eurofighter project still looks like a flying camel invented by a multinational committee that is fast outliving its sell-by date. The enthusiasm for big aircraft carriers smacks of the Americans' excessive reliance on air attack over troops on the ground. Given the collapse of the major traditional threat in Europe and the experience of fire-fighting in the Balkans, it is hard to quarrel with the general thrust of a review which moves defence from tanks in Germany to paratroopers on helicopters.

But to call this, as the Ministry of Defence does, Britain's first "foreign policy driven" review is balderdash. Defence policy has always been driven by foreign policy and that foreign policy has always been driven by Britain's desire to strut upon the world stage, or "to project our power overseas" as the more polite phrase has it. Since Napoleon planned but did not execute a crossing of the Channel, British prime ministers have been driven not by the fear of invasion but by the desire to protect and demonstrate their interests and influence abroad.

To that extent, interventionist defence is no more than a reversion to Lord Palmerston's gunboat diplomacy. Only we don't have the empire, the global power or the armed pre-eminence which that great seducer of public opinion, as well as women, had.

Which is precisely the point. The nature of defence has clearly changed since the end of the Cold War, although you would have to have forgotten history entirely if you thought that land invasions could never occur again in Europe. The public does now want to see Britain play an active role in foreign troubles - "the desire for the government to do something" as Douglas Hurd used to

say with such distaste and George Robertson repeated with a great deal more enthusiasm yesterday.

But where, and with whom? These are the questions which neither the Defence Review nor the Foreign Office have tried to answer. It is all very well saying our forces will be used in conjunction with Nato, the UN and Europe and be limited to Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. But therein lies a multitude of potential disasters. You only have to think of the Balkans today or Lebanon before to understand that.

Forming part of Nato, European Union or UN intervention is fine in principle but the future of these organisations, and the extent of our contribution to them,

are not necessarily compatible. And if we are committing our forces in this way, should we not be contributing rather to a permanent UN Security Council force and a standing European army? These are the questions which a "foreign policy-led" defence strategy would have to answer. So far they have not even been addressed.

At the end of the day the aims of foreign ventures have to come first, not the means. Creating the ability without a definition of intent is simply an invitation to bluster and disaster. For what one must always remember with military questions is that politicians are paying for their own ambitions with another's life.



## Time to dethrone the Church of England

ONE OF the nation's great institutions has been meeting this week in York. Its senior members are entitled by virtue of the office they hold to a place in the legislature. By Act of Parliament, it must have a representative in almost every town in the land. It has its own parliament, whose elected members are drawn almost exclusively from the ranks of the chattering classes. And it discusses everything under the sun, from racial equality to tobacco advertising.

We are referring to the General Synod of the Church of England. For all the talk about modernising Britain - reforming the House of Lords, changing the voting system - there has been barely a reference to a body no less ancient than the upper house of Parliament.

Yet there is no more anachronistic a relationship in Britain today than that between the Church of England and the state. Over a century ago the movement to disestablish the church was one of the most powerful political forces. It says much about the British mind-set that after this initial unsuccessful push, the subject in effect disappeared from view. One brave soul raised it during the Synod's deliberations this week, only to be roundly dismissed by David Hope, the Archbishop of York, who expressed horror at any loosening of the hind. With an *ex officio* seat in the House of Lords, this should hardly come as a surprise.

Yet the arguments for disestablishmentarianism are overwhelming - so overwhelming that even the Prince of Wales, who will, on his accession to the throne, become head of the Church and "Defender of the Faith", seems to be in favour. Famously, he has said that he would rather be "Defender of Faith" - a recognition that modern Britain has a number of religions, many far more vibrant than the Church of England.

Tony Blair is perhaps the most overtly Christian prime minister this century. As such, he no doubt relishes his role in appointing bishops. He has already shown his concern in rejecting the shortlist offered to him for the bishopric of Liverpool. But what business is it of any politician, however righteous, to get involved in the internal appointments of a private religious body?

That is the nub of it. The established Church is not a private body, it is an arm of the state. Is it any wonder that it is in such a mess? Less than 2 per cent of the population attend Church of England services. The Church needs the freedom to be bold, to act without the inhibitions of being the established church. "Disestablish the church" may have the ring of the 19th century about it, but it is a cry that is decidedly modern.

## Forget those old certainties, it's time for a little inflation

TODAY THE economic wizards on the Bank of England's monetary committee will decide what to do about our interest rates.

No, I don't know what they will do, but then nor do they. If you are reading this on Thursday morning, they will still be talking about it. What is clear is that this is an important meeting. While inflation has been perking up in recent weeks, so too have worries about the world economy, as the Asian recession threatens to spread. Meanwhile, the high UK rates needed to curb inflation have forced up sterling, hit exports and plunged manufacturing industry into despair.

Economic policy-makers frequently face dilemmas, but at the moment the one facing this lot is particularly sharp. Should they pay more attention to their statutory duty, which is to take the right measures to hold inflation around 2.5 per cent? Or should they take a wider view of the dangers threatening the world economy (and of course British manufacturing) and reckon that the inflation risk is the lesser of the two?

This matters for all of us, for we have to pay the higher interest rates, or receive the higher rates on our savings, but it also matters for the Bank committee itself. The country is still in the early stages of an experiment, for until a year ago these decisions were taken by the Chancellor. You can believe that he did not do it very well - the charge is he held down rates ahead of the election to try to engineer political popularity for the Tories - but still question whether the present arrangement of rates being fixed by an unelected cabal is optimal.

I happen to think that it is better to have interest rates set outside the political sphere and that having them done by people at an independent central bank is the least bad alternative. But it is hard to feel completely comfortable about the way the monetary committee has in practice functioned.

Leave aside whether the members have been making the right decisions or not, and just consider the fact that they were for a while split down the middle as to whether raise rates. When last month they put up rates, they did so on what everyone assumes was a narrow majority judgement: we have to wait for the minutes to find out for sure.

At the very least the committee should learn from US and German experience of independent central bank systems and try to reach some sort of consensus. Any new system, by its very nature, will be on trial. No one is asking them to be clones, but by failing to reach a consensus the monetary committee members have put themselves more on trial than they needed to.

So will UK inflation or the threat of world recession win today's debate? Whichever way the committee members jump, they surely ought to worry more about the latter.

It is very hard when things are swinging along fine to remember that they will not be fine for ever. Divide the world economy into three time-zones. One-third of it is in terrible shape, virtually the whole time-zone of East Asia is either already in recession or heading into it. A second zone, Europe, is still growing modestly, but the fastest-growing bit for the last



**HAMISH MCRAE**  
*Don't buy a BMW in August, but go out and have some expensive meals in restaurants*

five years, the UK is now slowing down. It has been demand from the UK that has helped continental European economies to pull out of recession: domestic demand in Germany, Italy and France is flat.

As for the final third, the US, its growth has been extraordinarily strong. But in the last few weeks the collapse of demand from East Asia has been hitting the profits of American companies. As a result confidence is wobbling. We can no longer expect America to pull the rest of us along.

Notoriously, economists find it hard to agree on anything. But the one thing on which they seem to have reached a measure of agreement is that "dissipation" (falling prices) is becoming the dominant feature of the world economy.

Here, our prices still seem to be going up, but that is largely because

the Government has stuck extra tax on petrol and cigarettes, and (last month) prices of some seasonal foods went up. At a wholesale level (the prices that companies can charge to retailers), prices are not rising at all. In fact they are lower than they were a year ago. Elsewhere in the world this lack of pricing power by producers is becoming the dominant force. New cars in the US are cheaper than they were a year ago, the same in Japan. Try and put up your prices and people head off elsewhere.

There is a further twist here. If the world is heading into a period of deflation, maybe we have a slight advantage in having just a little inflation in this country, might even be a weapon which enables the UK to pull through the next world recession with a slightly better shape than the rest.

Can this really be true? We have been told so often, and quite rightly, about the evils of inflation, that the very idea that a little of the stuff might be no bad thing seems almost sacrilegious. In a world where there is reasonably steady economic growth and a modest upward creep in prices, you do indeed put yourselves at a disadvantage by letting things rip. That was the old stop-go economics which dominated post-war Britain and which was deeply damaging, just as companies had geared up for extra production, bang, interest rates went up and public spending was cut.

But that is not today's world. In Japan prices are falling, the economy is in recession and the government is desperate to try to find some way of making people spend more. Cut interest rates? No good, because they are already so low. Cut taxes? No good, because people save the money instead of spending it. On the continent the same disease is occurring, albeit in less virulent form.

You do not need to believe that what is happening in Japan will become the norm for the rest of the developed world to see that there are some advantages in having consumers who will go out and spend money when they have it put in their bank accounts.

If a country enters this world with a slight inflation problem, and the correspondingly high interest rates needed to control it, then at least it has the option of stimulating demand by bringing rates back down.

So maybe the advantage lies not in having a bit of inflation as such, but rather in having consumers who are not frightened of spending money in our inflation mentality: the feeling that you might as well spend the stuff now because prices will probably be higher in a few months' time. And if they are not, well, the Bank of England will cut interest rates, won't it, so we will be OK?

Of course what we have to do is to persuade people to spend the money at home so we keep it moving round here, rather than giving it to companies in other countries. So here is the new rule of behaviour: to be approved by the earnest folk at the Bank of England. Don't buy a BMW in the August rush, but go out and have some good or at least expensive meals in British restaurants instead.

And if, against the odds, there is another rise in interest rates? Expect them to be coming down fast before the end of the autumn.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Even with my sinuses I could smell the stench coming out of these revelations."

William Hague  
Leader of the Opposition

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Honesty is the best policy, but he who is governed by that maxim is not an honest man."

Richard Whately  
English logician and theologian

### THE INDEPENDENT

## WIN

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All you have to do to enter this competition is to dial the number below, answer the following question on the line and leave your name, age and full address and contact number.

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- a) Indian Ocean
- b) Pacific Ocean
- c) Atlantic Ocean

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Calls cost 50p per minute and should last no longer than 2 minutes. Winners will be picked at random after the lines close at midnight on Sunday 12th July 1998. The travel price cannot be taken on bank holidays or the Christmas period. Usual newspaper rules apply. Editors decision is final. All entrants must be 18 or over.

## MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

*The 'cash for favours' charges facing the Government*



has Mr Blair matured sufficiently to wean himself from the favourite of his salad days? Or is the Prime Minister still so dependent on Mr Mandelson that he must clasp him ever closer to his political bosom as the grand, divisive and eminently mistrusted vizier of his Downing Street court?

*Editorial, The Daily Mail*

mount will damage the Government more. Mr Blair has launched an inquiry, but he needs to take action, too.

*Editorial, The Mirror*

That applies to two men in particular - Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, and Roger Liddle, from the No 10 Policy Unit.

Hanging on to them as accusations and pressure

AFTER 14 months in power, Mr Draper has a brash

clutch of lobbyists boasting of their access to new Labour is not, as some commentators ludicrously claim, evidence of a Blair version of Tory sleaze. Both Liddle and Draper are revealed in their comments as a couple of boastful prats. The Prime Minister should be fired; here are his people talking to businessmen as if every conspiracy theory about "Tony's cronies" was literal truth.

*Editorial, The Daily Telegraph*

THIS IS a story about swank, not corruption. The sting operation which caught a

him, the harder it is for Mr Blair to take action.

That applies to two men in particular - Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, and Roger Liddle, from the No 10 Policy Unit.

Hanging on to them as accusations and pressure

## PANDORA

A PICTURE of Derek Draper's student days at the University of Manchester is beginning to emerge. Readers will not be surprised to learn that it's a bizarre one. Draper's behaviour as a student politician was described, in early 1990, by various of his peers as "criminal", "out of control" and "mad" in various issues of *Grip*, a student union newspaper.

He was suspended in 1990 from his position as "communications officer" with the student union of the University of Manchester; he was also sued - successfully - for £1,500 in damages after angrily defacing 4,000 copies of *Grip*, which ran an editorial accusing him of being "arrogant and self-important".

UNDER THE splash "Draper Ditched", "Grip" described Draper's various activities in lurid detail, including "throwing coffee around its meetings, intimidating a speaker at a meeting of Labour Club and throwing their leaflets out of an upstairs window".

The Labour Club meeting involved a woman speaker from Poland talking about Eastern Europe. According to one witness, "the way he was shouting at the speaker was absolutely mad". The Polish woman later told one student "that she never knew that Stalinism existed in Britain until she saw Derek Draper".

However, at least one of Draper's fellow students, Douglas Wong, had the foresight to suggest in 1990, "A lot of us here think that perhaps the world of student politics is too small for his expansive talents."



NOBODY LIKES a braggart, but Pandora cannot resist the temptation to do a little Bragging. Tuesday's announcement of the BBC's decision to ask Lord Bragg to give up his host's role on "Start the Week", because of political conflict of interest, came as no surprise to our readers. Pandora's lead story on Tuesday morning predicted as much.

That said, readers will surely feel some sympathy for Lord Bragg. It's hardly as if he's the only close friend of New Labour at the BBC. Take Alan Yentob, Controller of BBC1, who is a regular on the New Labour social circuit and a special media advisor to Peter Mandelson's Millennium Dome project.

United Mevyn Bragg, Yentob has not taken a seat on the Government benches. However, like Bragg, he is a highly talented broadcaster with a wealth of experience, one of the Corporation's strongest executive assets. The BBC is faced with a difficult task when it seeks to ensure that all broadcasters are completely free of political bias.

LORD ARCHER generously donated his services as an auctioneer to Monday's cancer research fundraiser at the Royal Academy. Pandora spoke to him before the bidding and asked his reaction to the "Stop Archer" campaign being waged behind the scenes by a number of Tories who oppose his bid to stand in London's mayoralty election. A pained look appeared on the author-politician's face, he waved his hand dismally, then walked away without a word.

Pandora fervently hopes that his former colleagues' disloyalty has not depressed Archer to the point that his normally unrestrained and effusive good spirits are going, going, gone.

THE HUNT is on for "Playmate 2000". Playboy magazine has launched a multi-million dollar search for the young woman whose perfect physical attributes will unfold for all the world to see (including staples) in its January 2000 issue. The quest for the Millennium Playmate is being conducted on a special luxurious, photo-studio-equipped bus which began a 35-city tour of North America on Tuesday. In view of the mode of transportation, it seems unlikely that British beauty will have any chance of winning this epoch-making distinction. Pandora is disconsolate.

NOT SO long ago, a dog was the favourite accessory for the bourgeoisie. If you wanted to indulge yourself a little more, you could adopt something from further afield - a lion cub or an elephant. Now, it is time to upgrade to a real person.

With the aid of a brochure from Amnesty, which operates as a sort of international model agency for the destitute, a little girl with charmingly mournful eyes can be yours. If you have been especially lucky in your choice, your "adopted child" will have a life-threatening "exotic" disease, whose successful cure your donations will fund. Terrible state they're in, over there, you can say over your rocket salad. "So glad to help."

Now our funky Prime Minister, through the new "homelessness tsar", is beginning to make it possible for all Britain's secret savants to lend a hand in the war against poverty.

One can imagine him sitting in a meeting with his fresh-faced crew of Oxbridge Saab-drivers, saying earnestly, "Now, the feeling we're trying to create is one of em-

pathy. These homeless people are just like us, you know." Blair suggests that buyers of *The Big Issue* make the leap from everyday condescension to full-on huddlement. El Tony is so out of touch, he does not realise that most people buy the magazine out of guilt and a very English fear of being hassled on the street; they then sit on the Tube self-consciously pretending to read it

pathy. These homeless people are just like us, you know."

Blair suggests that buyers of *The Big Issue* make the leap from everyday condescension to full-on huddlement. El Tony is so out of touch, he does not realise that most people buy the magazine out of guilt and a very English fear of being hassled on the street; they then sit on the Tube self-consciously pretending to read it

while trying to stifle their yawns. They carry it poking out of their bags as a mobile advertisement of their liberalism, though when a homeless person who does not possess the distinction of having been appointed a magazine vendor asks them for spare change, the answer is always no.

Those who have the luxury of a stable home simply do not understand what it is to be without one, and the Government's plans reflect this. Instead, we have a terribly nice, terribly liberal and also terribly patronising desire to help out.

Concerned parties can involve themselves with the lives of those in need through weekly meetings, apparently, while being spared the inconvenience of having to take home one of those scruffy tramps.

How is this supposed to work? Is Ms Chartered Accountant to deliver her chosen urban some smoked salmon and a few filled baguettes for his *petit déjeuner*? Or, as an aid to his house-hunting problems, possibly slip him some photocopies from Sunday magazine adverts of lovely Dorset cottages?

And as far as advice goes, Mr Hotshot Journalist could offer no less profound musings than "Ob yes, I know what it is to be without a home. When my loft was being converted I even slept on a friend's floor for a month. Lacquered wood, you know, atrociously ergonomic. And it was such a pain getting to the office all the way from Maida Vale."

The Government is trying to present a double-faced approach that is designed to unite social feeling with hard industry action. In theory, propelled by the general mercy and kindness of the nation at large various employment sectors will offer people work experience, while the New Deal will be modified in order to admit new recruits more swiftly.

Blair and Brown seem to expect homeless people, elated by the patronage of those who used to walk straight past them in the street, to leap up, dust themselves off and *sprint* in their droves to make a start on the potentially happy and fulfilling lives only New Labour could ever have made them aware of. But there is a huge

gap between selling *The Big Issue* for a pittance, and feeling strong enough to put your life together in any permanent way.

Being homeless is not the result of running out of rent or being between flats, but, in most cases, the result of traumatic yet escapable events. Many homeless people have indeed had houses, jobs and families in the past. They do not need to be taught how to gain employment or mix with the educated classes. What is required, as Blair well knows, is for money to be invested in more shelters, and dedicated counselling aimed at restoring people's sense of personal potential.

Of course, advice about re-entering employment is useful enough, but it is not the most pressing concern. Much as the men at the top want to convince us that goodwill alone will save the day, they must acknowledge that the power to resolve social problems lies in the buck, not in the consciences of an apathetic middle class who are more interested in paying lip-service than paying for Shelter.

## Spare a dime. Forget the 'buddy'



**BIDISHA**  
*Those with the luxury of a stable home do not understand what it is like to be without one*

## New Labour's brashness hides its lack of self-belief



**STEVE RICHARDS**  
*It is time to recognise that governing is very different from winning an election*

THE SELF-CONFESSED boasting and brashness of Derek Draper is one side of New Labour which disguises another: this is the least confident government since the war. What makes the situation more confusing is that this administration has the biggest majority since 1945. It could do what it likes but is unsure what it really wants to do; and when ministers present bold ideas, it is often too frightened to pursue them.

When I appear on television and radio I am sometimes described as the "Blairite Steve Richards", an inaccuracy which probably annoys Blairites as much as it does me. I do subscribe to a pro-European, pluralist agenda and support efforts to "think the unthinkable" on welfare reform and transport. This could be described as a "Blairite agenda". However, the Government, in spite of its mighty majority and deceptively strong rhetoric, is wary of identifying itself too firmly with any agenda, Blairite or otherwise.

Before May 1997, New Labour was essentially a project to win a general election. Commentators competed with each other to discover more profound insights beneath the rhetoric but were quickly swatted away.

Take the case of the "stakeholding" episode. Tony Blair made stakeholding his central theme in a speech on the economy in Singapore in 1996. Will Hutton, author of *The State We're In*, thought his moment had come. So did other stakeholder economists. The leadership panicked. "What I really mean", said Blair, "was that every one should have a 'stake in society'." He reassured David Frost that it was a "slogan" and nothing more. Soon he moved on to the Third Way, which can mean anything depending on the audience, a much safer philosophy.

The project was brilliantly suc-

cessful in that the election was won on a landslide. And then what?

Within days there was talk of how the campaign to win the next election had already got under way. The New Labour project has a new objective: nothing must be done to jeopardise the second victory.

That has meant two things. Those that secured the historic win in 1997 remain central in government. Alastair Campbell has more influence and power than ministers who might have more ideas on detailed policies. Peter Mandelson remains at the heart of the "project" in the Cabinet Office, rather than being lost in some peripheral activity, such as running a specific department. Charlie Whelan, a spin doctor, and Ed Balls, a former journalist, moved in with the Chancellor, who was himself a journalist before moving into politics full time.

In opposition, these media obsessives were triumphant. They recognised that what happened in the media was all that mattered. Oppositions cannot implement policies and cannot be judged by

them. Praise in the media was everything. They have continued to work on the same assumption in government, where symbolism and securing the best coverage are often a substitute for policy.

Last June, on a housing estate in Southwark, Blair made a much-typed speech about welfare reform. Much time and energy went into arranging the location. The speech itself was free of policy content; the Chancellor's Green Paper on the economy got rave reviews in the following day's newspapers. Therefore, the New Labour entourage concluded, it was a triumph. They did not listen to Labour backbenchers who were already raising concern about cuts in single parent benefits.

The rhetoric and symbols surrounding Britain's confused presidency got more priority than resolving policy ambiguities: premature memorabilia like the ridiculously early biographies of Cabinet ministers and, of course, the Millennium Dome seem to matter as much as policies that might merit permanent commemoration in years to come.

As the people who matter in government originate from the pre-election period, it is not surprising that those who were also involved then but who are now on the outside acquire importance. Draper and Co have no new views but know the key players in the government. Some have become instant journalists on the basis of contacts. In a neat and sinister symmetry, the media obsessives in the government now have their people who write for the newspapers full time.

It is the view of the New Labour insiders that they won because of the media and the related conversion of Middle England: nothing should be done to alienate either. This is why it is a scared government. The focus



Tony Blair makes his welfare speech in Southwark

groups, *The Sun*, the *Daily Mail*, all shape the perimeters of policy much more than the Third Way or any other guiding philosophy.

Making motorists pay more to finance public transport? Help! Most people use cars to get to work, especially in Middle England. We can't do that. Giving greater responsibility to local government? Think of the damaging headlines when Labour councils put up the council tax. We must retain Tory spending controls. Single currency? Sit on the fence until *The Sun* is less hostile.

The Government needs to start defining itself more boldly, instead of hiding its caution behind strong imagery. That means taking on some of its unlikely allies at the election. So Blair should lead from the front in the single currency debate, even if it alienates *The Sun*, which will not return to the Tory camp before the election. That does not mean racing into a referendum in which the Government risks a near-fatal defeat. It does mean being more open and explicit about the advantages of joining and taking on in more detail the outdated, but pop-

ulist, constitutional objections being raised by the Conservatives.

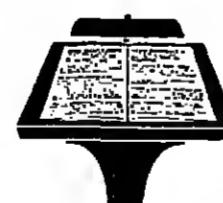
The Government should invest much more in public transport, even if that infuriates motorists by making them pay. Above all it should be bolder in decentralising power. If local authorities want to raise the council tax, let them justify it to their voters rather than remain accountable to central government.

A desire to win a second time is admirable. Of course there are many policy initiatives which are welcome and "make a difference". Ministers are drained by the weight of papers relating to their briefs. But the Government's vulnerability to relatively trivial issues, as demonstrated yesterday by Blair's defensiveness at Prime Minister's Question Time, is partly because its wider purpose is still unclear.

In Downing Street last May, Blair declared: "We won as New Labour; we will govern as New Labour." It is time to recognise that governing is very different from winning.

The writer is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

## We must keep the Lord's Day special



## PODIUM

## POPE JOHN

## PAUL II

## From the Pope's

## apostolic letter,

## 'Dies Domini'

## ('The Day of the Lord')

hours - especially in the poorer regions of the world - or because of the persistence in economically more developed societies of too many cases of injustice and exploitation of man by man.

At the same time, the right of workers to rest presupposes their right to work - in reflecting on the Christian understanding of Sunday those who are forced to remain inactive on weekdays are recalled with a "deep sense of solidarity".

Through Sunday rest, the concerns of life can be put in their proper perspectives: material things can give way to spiritual values. Under less pressure, people appreciate each other and their environment better. Christians will also wish to strive to ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy. In any case, they ought to participate in the Eucharist and refrain from work and activities which are incompatible with the sanctification of the Lord's Day.

Even in our own day work is very oppressive for many people, either because of miserable working conditions and long

hours - especially in the poorer regions of the world - or because of the persistence in economically more developed societies of too many cases of injustice and exploitation of man by man.

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# Will this child inherit his earth?



RUPERT  
CORNWELL

*The Aborigines fear the worst, but the cause of the world's indigenous peoples is gaining ground*

THE NINTH of August, if you did not know it, is the officially designated Indigenous Peoples' Day; indeed the United Nations has proclaimed these last years of the millennium to be the Decade of Indigenous People. In which case 8 July, at least in the Antipodes, may go down as the day of their despair. The reason is the passage in the Australian parliament of a bill severely curbing land rights of the country's Aboriginal population. An outcome which would "allow Australians to feel good about themselves," the Prime Minister John Howard proclaimed.

Well maybe, though his words don't say much for Australians' deep concern for their indigenous co-nationals. More probably they reflect the feelings of a politician who has staved off a general election that could have set back race relations by half a century.

His bill in fact is an expeditious but inglorious compromise. It staves off the very worst outcome - the outright abolition of native land rights - but transfers responsibility for judging Aboriginal land claims from Canberra to individual state governments. Historically, these latter have been in the pocket of Australia's mighty agricultural and mining industries. Small wonder Australian Aborigines, and their counterparts around the world, fear the worst. But it need not be so.

In fact, the cause of the planet's myriad indigenous populations is gaining ground. The turning point was the late 1960s, when the first Indian organisations appeared in Amazonia and a new class of young, urban Indian in North America drew inspiration from the civil rights movement. 1969 saw the foundation of Survival International, now the largest campaigning group for indigenous peoples. Public opinion was stirred, the United Nations developed an interest in the problem, and governments realised that a *modus vivendi* with these minorities was not only possible but not infrequently in the interests of both.

In the last 20 years, the total number of tribal peoples has risen. Survival estimates, from perhaps 200m to around 300m. Not all, of course, have held their own. The Aboriginal population, reduced from perhaps 1m when Cook landed in 1770 to 60,000 at the turn of the century, may have quadrupled since then, but other groups face extinction. Take the Tierra del Fuego Indians of southern Chile, 10,000-strong a century ago. Today just a few scattered families remain. The progress is slow, sometimes agonisingly so.

Four years have passed since the UN produced a draft Declaration on Indigenous Rights, which in particular recognises the land rights of tribal groups. But the document continues to meander through that organisation's bureaucracy. Even if it is one day approved by the General Assembly, individual national governments may insist on watered it down before they sign, rendering the end product all but useless.

More valuable are the UN working groups on the problem, but even these can be a mixed blessing: "Indian representatives would meet others from all over the world, and would learn they were not alone," says one Survival worker, "but the experience was dispiriting too. They realised just how powerless they were."

A bill curbing Aboriginal land rights will "allow Australians to feel good about themselves" said Prime Minister John Howard - but perhaps not this Australian

Yes, small victories there have been, and gradually these are adding up. But, wherever "civilisation" comes their way and real economic or strategic interests are at stake, the people who were there before will mostly be the losers.

A generation's sense of guilt cannot change the fact that the 19th century treaty recognising the right of the Lakota Sioux to their sacred Black Hills in South Dakota was torn up once the settlers discovered gold. The consolation prizes were the white man's poison of alcohol, wretched, desolate reservations like Pine Ridge, and a 600-foot statue of Crazy Horse now being carved out of a mountaintop.

Belated recognition, it will be argued, of the warrior betrayed and murdered in 1877 as a savage in a makeshift jailhouse of the US army a year after his victory over Custer at the Little Big Horn, but now a later-day Che Guevara in the pantheon of the oppressed. Indeed, his monument will dwarf the one a few miles up the road at Mount Rushmore, honouring four of the greatest American Presidents. The Sioux however are less impressed: it's not so much the gold they want back, but their Black Hills, their buffalo, and above all their land.

And so it goes the world over. You can see it in the clusters of dispossessed, drink-ravaged Aborigines at encampments in the dried out watercourse of the Todd River at Alice Springs. You see it in the mosquito-ridden swamps of northwest Siberia where the local Khanty and Mansi hunters and herders lament a way of life submerged beneath the foul lakes of crude oil spewed forth by ramshackle Soviet-era rigs. The Khanty do not want the full proceeds of what is among the richest oilfields on earth, vital for Russia's struggling economy - merely their land as they once knew it.

But there is no changing society's natural laws. When the crunch comes, might is right. Buy it, borrow it or steal it - if colonisers want land for settlement, farming or minerals, they will take it. So it was in the American West and Australia. So it was in Siberia; and so it is in the rainforests of the Amazon - where Brazil does not recognise local Indian land rights - and in Irian Jaya, the Indonesian half of New Guinea, where the interests of the indigenous Papuans count as nothing against the colossal Freeport mine, abutting on one of the world's last great surviving wildernesses.

And well-meaning conservationists can be as deadly a foe as rapacious industry. The lions, cheetahs and leopards of East Africa's game parks are splendid to behold; less so however for the local nomadic cattleherders. What use the millions of tourist dollars for Nairobi, when you can no longer hunt and your tribal hinterlands have been taken from you?

But finally, a philosophy of co-existence is starting to take hold. The Indigenous groups understand that history cannot be unmade; but at least its injustices can be mitigated by the use of our techniques on our own self-interest. In New Zealand the process has perhaps gone furthest. Ever more successfully, Maori tribes are asserting their rights to the country's assets, enshrined in the treaty they signed in 1840 which granted sovereignty to Britain.

Canada has granted effective control of vast swathes of its north to the Inuits. Even Australia has recently seen compromises more honourable than the one on offer in the Native Title Amendment Bill. Most of them involve the mining companies.

In Australia, as around the

world, minerals represent the real wealth of surviving tribal lands. Apart from the tropical rain forests, the bulk of them are useless for conventional agriculture. Mining leases, the 1994 Native Title act stipulated, did not extinguish Aboriginal rights to the land, which ran alongside the leases. Some mining companies negotiated with local Aboriginal councils, granting them royalties, jobs, a say in the construction of the mine, and protection of their sacred sites.

The process has been to everyone's advantage. The indigenous population has saved something of its birthright and gained a little prosperity. The companies have the certainty of a long term agreement - precisely what they now stand to lose under the Amendment Bill, which will be challenged through the courts and beyond.

Australia, which only 70 years ago could still massacre Aborigines for cattle theft, remains a laggard in the field. But even there perceptions are changing: that the indigenous minority is not a disappearing species but a part of the landscape, there to stay. Deeply flawed Mr Howard's new law may be. But it's not setting a trend. It's against the trend.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

MARK OATEN



The former managing director of a lobbying firm, now a Liberal Democrat MP, defends their role

I AM NOT sure if poacher-turned-gamekeeper best describes my change from director of a lobbying consultancy to MP, but it does give me the chance to see both sides in this week's cash-for-access row.

The most telling remark has come from the central figure. When Derek Draper describes himself as being "boastful and brash" he goes a long way to describing the industry he works in. The reality behind the big-hands-and-sleaze image is that, sadly, most clients are all too easily satisfied with a fast-talking consultant who can impress with basic knowledge of the system. Throw in a few tit-bits suggesting you're an insider and sell it with the kind of skills Mr Draper demonstrates, and you have a happy client.

Early in my career I remember how impressed

Japanese clients were when

sections from Hansard were

retyped on fancy paper and

marketed as "political intelligence". Frankly, this kind of service does not warrant

legislation but more de-

manding relations between

clients and customers.

This current debate seems

to me to be about favours for

friends. Working in a political

party builds up associa-

tions and loyalties. If one

friend ends up in Westmin-

ster, it is inevitable that

favours will take place.

It is clear that lobbying falls

into two categories: the who-

you-know approach, which is

not illegal but is unwelcome,

and the winning-the-argu-

ment approach which, if un-

dertaken professionally, can

help.

Fortunately, the worst days

of MPs being paid as direc-

tors of lobbying firms are

over. It seems to me almost

impossible to legislate

against friendships between

super-egos.



## Potent tales of older men

THE SEXUAL fixations of men of a certain age are enjoying a new youth: first Philip Roth's furiously ageing cocksman in *Sabbath's Theater*, then Howard Jacobson's superbly splenetic misogynist in *No More Mr Nice Guy*, and now Marlin Vargas Llosa's *Don Rigoberto*. The subject matter is broadly similar - 50ish or 60ish men whose sex lives run, so to speak, to seed - but whereas the British and US writers are brimming with comic rage, the Latin American novelist beguiles us with an atmosphere of elegiac erotica.

The plot has an mnefic quality - a sexual encounter between Alfonso, a boy in his young teens, and Lucrecia, his stepmother - though the quasi-incestuous dream appears to have really happened (whatever "really" means in an Hispanic context).

It brings about an estrangement between Lucrecia and her husband Rigoberto, Alfonso's father by his first marriage. In a frenzy of lost love, Rigoberto, an insurance agent, spends his nights scribbling erotic imaginings in which Lucrecia is the chief figure.

There is no suggestion of sadistic revenge; her adventures at his hands are consolations, his fantasies extensions of their passion. So it is that Lucrecia is smeared with honey and licked clean by her cats, seduces her girl servant, is spied on at her toilet by a castrated motorcyclist whose fetish it becomes to watch women piss, and makes love with a foot fetishist when she is not at play in a steambath with the wife of an Algerian ambassador. All healthy and normal behaviour, as these things go.

Healthy and normal Alfonso most definitely is not. He has inherited his father's sexualities in potentially vicious forms. An angelic and simultaneously devilish child who yearns to be an artist, Alfonso has a precocious yen for the artist Egon Schiele. This obsession leads him to pose his stepmother in Schiele postures with her maid, so



### THURSDAY BOOK

THE NOTEBOOKS OF  
DON RIGOBERTO  
BY MARIO VARGAS LLOSA  
TRANSLATED BY EDITH GROSSMAN  
FABER & FABER, £15.99

arousing in Lucrecia troubling desires which, unknown to husband and wife, are simultaneously brought to fruition in Rigoberto's fantasies. Caught between the erotic imaginings of her husband and those of his son, one way and another; sexually speaking, Lucrecia has a busy time of it.

The best things about the novel are its articulations between fantasy and reality. They are so deftly done that sometimes you literally do not know where you are from one sentence to the next, inducing a luxuriantly sensual

baze halfway between sleeping and waking. Yet the theme is problematical. For all his Latin sophistication and tightly suggestive prose, Vargas Llosa does not altogether escape the dangers of his genre: the indulgence of the male erotic imagination.

No matter how playfully lascivious the tales, no matter that Lucrecia's adventures stop short of the injurious or truly perverse, however great their love or broad the hints when she and Rigoberto are reconciled, that she is complicit in his fantasies, Vargas Llosa

hovers perilously close to the Justine syndrome.

Here is an old formula got up in stylish dress. Lucrecia is a voluptuous but fundamentally virtuous woman who is put through the sexual mill: "My conceit tonight, beloved, is modernist, bloodthirsty and African".

As if to pre-empt charges of pornography, Anglo-Saxon style, Rigoberto writes an imaginary letter to a Playboy reader which begins "Since eroticism is the intelligent and sensitive humanisation of physical love, and pornography its cheapening and degradation..."

The intelligence and humanity are here all right, together with wit and irony (the virility of the motorcyclist is sliced away in an accident by the crucifix he wears for divine protection). Nevertheless, there are moments when you feel you are being too lightly amused, and the tone slides towards a Fanny Hill naughtiness.

At better times there is a pleasing literariness, passages of sensual reverie which could have featured in Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *Love In The Time of Cholera*, or echoes of the 19th-century classic by Machado da Assis, *Diary of a Small Winner*.

The novel is superbly written, beautifully translated (by Edith Grossman), and open to pretty well any psycho-sexual interpretation you care to put on it. Whatever else they are, Don Rigoberto's notebooks are a good erotic read - including, one suspects, for Lucrecia - and certainly good enough for him to give up his day job in the insurance business. Which is what Mario Vargas Llosa himself inadvertently did in real life, when his political ambitions in Peru collapsed.

His novels continue to bring more entertainment, humanity and intelligence to the world than presidential decrees.

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### THURSDAY POEM

#### LIKE THE BEE (AFTER FRANCIS BACON)

BY NIYI OSUNDARE (NIGERIA)

Not like the spider  
draping crowded rooms  
in the wanton web  
of flimsy looms  
a welter of legs spinning  
silky bridges, fragile,  
for the empty feet of air  
Not like the wood-insect  
carpentering logs to fashion

its own prison  
stockaded pupae peeping  
behind bars of enlaving labour  
But like the bee  
brewing one honey  
from the nectars  
of several seasons  
pleasing the bud  
of every clime.

Our poems this week come from the new edition of *The Penguin Book of Modern African Poetry*, edited by Gerald Manne and Ulli Beier (Penguin, £9.99)

GEORGE WALDEN

# Chief Moshood Abiola

CHIEF MOSHOOD Abiola was the human embodiment of the profound contradictions which continue to haunt his country. Reputedly one of the richest men in Africa, who often epitomised the ostentatious culture of the Nigerian establishment, his common touch and rich oratory endeared him to millions of his impoverished countrymen. A close personal friend and business partner of the army officers who had led his country to ruin, MKO, as he was commonly known, emerged as a most unlikely champion of democracy and the most potent threat to Nigeria's military dictatorship.

His was a quintessential rags-to-riches story which began in August 1937 in the south-western city of

*A car-hire businessman explained, 'He is a very rich man. We have the belief that the man is so rich that what he needs to do is to help the masses'*

Abeokuta, birthplace of some of Nigeria's leading personalities, such as the Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, General Olusegun Obasanjo, the human rights campaigner Dr Beko Ransome Kuti and his internationally renowned singer brother Fela Kuti, and the Harvard-trained indistrialist Chief Ernest Shonekan.

Studied in the heartland of the Yoruba people about 30 miles north-west of Lagos, Abeokuta is a city with a remarkable history, where the "modernist" ideas of slaves freed in the 19th century by British warships mixed with the more traditionalist local African chiefs to produce a revolution in African political thought.

The Nigerian novelist and professor of comparative literature in South Africa Kole Omotoso once described Abeokuta's unique culture

as one "of celebration, public and private, a culture of dance and song in such a variety it could be bewildering . . . a culture that had always made a virtue of taking from others what it thought useful for its continued self-expression and survival".

The traditional arts came in handy for the young Abiola as he earned money to pay for his education by singing and drumming. After attending Baptist Boys High School, he won a scholarship to study accountancy at Glasgow University.

Upon returning to Nigeria, he took a position as chief accountant with Pfizer of Nigeria before moving on to the US transnational International Telegraph and Telephone, where he became a regional vice-president for Africa and the Middle East and chief executive of ITT Nigeria.

He started to build his fortune in the mid-1970s when he negotiated a billion-dollar contract with the military government of the day to install a telephone system in Lagos. The exchange was renowned for its grave deficiencies, and for many, Abiola symbolised the civilian elite's complicity with military rule. But his Abiola in mind that Fela Kuti composed the popular hit, "ITT - International Thief Thief". His ties with the military were never an embarrassment, however, and he often explained them with a proverb: "To kiss somebody, you have to get near them; to bite them you have to get near them too".

Over the years, the combination of business acumen and close friendships with military strongmen, particularly the rising star Ibrahim Babangida, helped him build the Concord empire which included the national airline, a publishing house, a shipping line, and an oil company. Muslim, flamboyant and a patron generous with his riches, MKO became a household name with over 150 traditional chieftaincy titles and a nationwide network of support. A polygamist, he had at least four wives and an unknown number of children.

Ironically, his first major foray into politics, a failed bid for the presidential nomination of the mainly northern National Party of Nigeria which ruled from 1979 to 1983, earned him the reputation as a traitor to his southern Yoruba people. His second, as the presidential candidate for the more southern ori-



MKO: Abiola won the Nigerian elections in 1993, but his rival General Abacha annulled them

Enrique Shore / Reuters

ented Social Democratic Party in June 1993, saw him emerge as the first candidate to bridge the ethnic, religious and regional divides which have marred Nigeria's history since its formation as British colony at the turn of the century.

Armed with his ample financial war chest, Abiola launched an American-style presidential campaign which literally overwhelmed his sole opponent, the obscure businessman Bashir Tofa. The vote on 12 June 1993 was described by Nigerian and international observers as the freest and fairest ever in the country's history.

In the topsy-turvy nature of Nigerian politics, the poor and working people of Nigeria enthusiastically supported Chief Abiola precisely because he was so wealthy. Ulukode Sukoya, a car-hire businessman, explained it this way: "He is a very rich man and I think he got rich from the military. Now we are not really interested how he got the money. We have the belief that the man is so rich that what he needs to do is to help the poor masses." In Nigeria, logic dictated that you voted for the rich because their wealth was so great

they would not need to steal from government coffers and perhaps, just maybe, some crumbs would fall to the people's way.

Abiola won the election easily, capturing even the northern city of Kano, home of his opponent. But his old friend General Ibrahim Babangida, who had come to power in a military coup in 1985, betrayed him by annulling the election for reasons that were never properly explained. General Babangida himself was forced out of office in August 1993, leaving government in the hands of Ernest Shonekan, but his administration was ousted in a palace coup in November by the Defence Minister, General Sani Abacha.

It is often said that Abiola supported the Abacha coup in the belief that he would be installed as the legally elected president, but the general had other ideas. He outfoxed Abiola by bringing into government pro-democracy campaigners, including Abiola's running mate, Baba Gana Kingibe. Abiola was left out in the cold, and, to the chagrin of his supporters, he left the country to consult his doctor: "When the music changes, the dancer must step to a

different tune," he said a day before his departure in November 1993. He spent much of the next six months in Europe and the United States in search of international support.

In a dramatic change of heart, Abiola returned to Nigeria in 1994 and in June declared himself president, saying "Let the heavens fall." What fell was the strong arm of the military. General Abacha's Provisional Ruling Council arrested Abiola on charges of treason and kept him in detention from which he would never emerge alive. Over the years in captivity in Abuja, his health was failing and he was permitted only infrequent visits by his doctor. His business empire suffered badly, and in June 1996, Chief Abiola's senior wife, Kudirat, was gunned down in Lagos by unknown assailants widely suspected to have been dispatched by General Abacha.

Throughout, he remained a symbol of the popular desire for an elected government, especially among his fellow Yorubas in the south-western part of the country. The sudden death by heart attack of his arch enemy, General Abacha, on 8 June, gave new hope to his sup-

porters that he would soon be free. His release had been all but cleared by the new military ruler, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, and he was allowed to meet with the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, who announced, to the anger of Nigeria's pro-democracy movement, that Abiola had renounced his presidential mandate. It was during a subsequent meeting with the US Under-Secretary of State Thomas Pickering that he followed his tormentor to the grave as a victim of a heart attack.

Chief Abiola leaves Nigeria at a crossroads, with a military regime confused about how to proceed with its stated desire to quit politics and the pro-democracy movement without an obvious leader.

Karl Maier

**Moshood Kashimawoo Olawale Abiola, accountant and politician; born Abeokuta, Nigeria 24 August 1937; married 1960 Simbiat Shoga, 1973 Kudirat Adeyemi (died 1986), 1974 Adebisi Oshin, 1981 Dayosola Aboaba (four sons, six daughters); died Abuja, Nigeria 7 July 1998.**

THE LIFE of John Edward Jones was, from the beginning, an extraordinary story.

His parents had come to Liverpool from Wales in search of work and Welsh was the language of the home. A few months before his final exams at Liverpool Institute High School, his father lost his job, during the Twenties slump. His younger brother had to be educated, so he had to forego the chance of a scholarship to Cambridge University.

Leaving school, he went to work at the British Engine Insurance Company in Manchester, where he stayed for 12 years. But in his spare time the determination that was part of his character spurred him on to study on his own, and he gained qualifications, including a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1942.

He enjoyed the legal subjects he stumbled upon and went on to obtain a law degree. Then he decided to change course and to qualify as a barrister. His remaining dinners at Gray's Inn Road in November 1945 were taken during his honeymoon.

He entered in Liverpool the chambers of Glyn Blackledge KC and became the only pupil of the legendary Rose Hebborn. In one of his early cases, in 1948, which attracted national publicity, he was a member of the chambers team for the prosecution of George Kelly for the "Cameo Cinema murder". The building was very familiar to Jones as it was formerly a Welsh chapel which he had attended with his family. With Rose Hebborn, he later defended successfully one of the seven burglars charged with murder in the Hanging Boy Case which took place at Edge Lane.

He became a high-profile barrister with a special interest in the disadvantaged, and in 1969 was made a county court judge, and later a circuit judge until his retirement in 1984. Jones acquired a reputation for fairness, and toughness "tempered with the milk of human kindness". On his retirement, a barrister said of him, "He never threw the case away and one always got a good, honest hearing."

But to many in Liverpool he was an ambassador for the Welsh community and one of the most prominent members in Presbyterian church circles. Elected an elder in 1947, he gave sterling service to the Presbyterian Church of Wales as a lay preacher. Moderator of Presbytery on two occasions, an expert on insurance, and a regular visitor to all the hospitals of the city. There was nothing in the life of his beloved church that he was not involved in, and his history of the Welsh in Liverpool, *Antur a Menter Cywyd Lerpwl*, published in 1987, is an excellent account.

Ready to assist every worthwhile cause with generosity, Jones identified himself with the Red Cross, serving on its National Council from 1983 to 1986. He appreciated music, and was delighted in 1987 when he was invited to become President of the Liverpool Welsh Choral Union.

He never lost the common touch. To a large circle of us he was "J.E.", and to others from an earlier generation, he was John Beck. The word Beck came from Beckenham Avenue, the street near Sefton Park where he spent his youth. He died at Lourdes Hospital, only 100 yards from Beckenham Avenue.

D. Ben Rees

**John Edward Jones, judge; born Liverpool 23 December 1914; called to the Bar: Gray's Inn 1945; ordained deacon 1947; Director, Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Assurance Trust 1953-59; Deputy Chairman, Lancashire Quarter Sessions 1966-69; circuit judge 1969-84; Vice President, Liverpool Welsh Choral Union 1973-87; President 1987-98; Gorsedd of Bards (as Ioan Maesgrug) 1987; married 1945 Kathy Edwards (one son, one daughter); died Liverpool 28 June 1998.**

## Professor Frederick Rimmer

THE RENAISSANCE of Scottish contemporary music owes much to the vision of Frederick Rimmer. In 1955 he established the series of annual McEwen Commissions, funded in fulfilment of Sir John Blackwood McEwen's bequest to Glasgow University "to procure and promote the performance of chamber music works by composers of Scottish race and descent".

Rimmer's interest and commitment to contemporary music extended to giving students the opportunity to work with composers. With this in mind he created the Cramb Fellowship in Composition in 1966, the holders of which were Hugh Wood, Martin Dally, George Newson, Thomas Wilson, Judith Weir and Lyell Cresswell.

With the late Sir Alexander Gibson and Robert Ponsonby of the Scottish National Orchestra he founded Music Nova, the triennial contemporary music festival which concentrated on the works of living composers. At the first festival in 1971, newly commissioned works by

five composers (Lucian Berio, Thea Musgrave, Iain Hamilton, Douglas Young and Thomas Wilson) were rehearsed, discussed by the composers in open forum and premiered. This festival set the precedent not only for future Musical Nova Festivals bringing together composers, performers and scholars, but also for other subsequent contemporary music festivals in the UK.

In 1968 Rimmer founded the Scottish Music Archive as a centre where a complete record of Scottish composers and their music, both printed and manuscript, would be readily available. The first priority was to collect music composed from 1920. Now renamed the Scottish Music Information Centre, it houses the largest collection of works by Scottish composers in the world and while it has extended its holdings backwards in time it continues to focus on Scotland's contemporary music.

During this time he revitalised the chapel choir with the creation of organ and choral scholarships. For-

mer choristers, many of whom followed careers in professions other than music, still speak warmly of the excitement of singing under his direction. He was also very involved with the University Choral Society and had a remarkable gift for tackling the most demanding scores, including world premieres, yet always managing to coax the best out of his singers with a deft balance of firmness and good humour.

As a teacher Rimmer was inspirational. A disciplinarian, he expected total commitment from his students. Yet there was a very human side to him, which students may not always have seen initially, but which they came to appreciate as they proceeded through their course. No one was able to get students through the arcane mysteries of counterpoint and harmony as he could.

In the early 1970s he persuaded the university to make a substantial investment in electronic musical equipment and to build an Electronic Music Studio (the first in Scotland and the second in the UK). Al-

though a composer, he rarely played with it himself, but the acquisition sparked off a train of futuristic composition and research that has kept Glasgow University in the forefront of international developments in computer music technology.

In all his career Fred Rimmer was supported by his loving wife, Joan, who could always be relied on to ruffle any feathers and to calm him down in moments of excitement when performing or conducting. In 1994 the Rimmers travelled north from their home in Grantham for a weekend of music in celebration of Fred's 80th birthday. The three-day programme, with performances by the University Choral Society, chapel choir, and professional musicians, was also a celebration of Scottish music, much of which was made possible because of Fred Rimmer.

Generations of students, colleagues past and present, composers, including former Cramb Fellows in Composition, gathered to participate.

Marjorie E. Rycroft

**Frederick William Rimmer, composer, musician and teacher; born Liverpool 21 February 1914; Senior Lecturer in Music, Homeopathic College, Cambridge 1948-51; Cramb Lecturer in Music, Glasgow University 1951-56; Organist to the University 1951-56; Senior Lecturer 1956-66; Gardiner Professor of Music 1966-80 (Emeritus); Director, Scottish Music Archive 1968-80; CBE 1980; married 1941 Joan Graham (two sons, one daughter); died Cambridge 3 July 1998.**

## Gladys Ambrose

AS THE interfering grandmother to the Corkhill family in the television serial *Brookside*, Gladys Ambrose became an overnight star, but she had already been treading the boards for more than 36 years as an actress in pantomime and summer shows, a soprano in light opera and a trapeze artist and acrobat in variety.

She was born in Liverpool in 1930, one of five children. Her stage potential - most notably her singing voice - was spotted by her headmaster at infant school, who advised the girl's mother to send her for theatrical training. The family could not

afford to do this in the depressed Thirties, so Ambrose spent school holidays potato and pea-picking to pay for singing lessons. During the Second World War aged seven, she was evacuated to Llanwrst in North Wales and entered a local talent contest singing "Jesus" in Welsh and winning a £6 stamp. She subsequently took singing, dancing and voice projection lessons at the Madam Edith Clarke School, in Liverpool, and in 1949 made her professional debut as a chorus dancer in the revue *Joe de Ville* at the Theatre Royal, Castleford. Soon, she graduated to starring

roles and became a favourite in pantomime as principal girl and principal boy. It was while playing the Wicked Queen in the original British stage tour of *Snow White* that she met the Dutch-born Johnny Votel, who was performing as an acrobat in a speciality act at the Wood Green Empire, London. The two married, Ambrose learned the trapeze and Wendy, who performed a singing double-act as the Votel Sisters.

In 1965, she joined the Liverpool-based television serial *Brookside* as Julia Brogan, busybody mother of Doreen Corkhill. When Doreen and her husband Billy left, the character continued to appear on television in many character

parts, playing both Eddie Yeats's landlady and Mrs Hindle in *Coronation Street*. Mrs Barrett in *The Brothers McGregor* and a noisy shopkeeper in *Bread*. Her 30th anniversary in showbusiness was celebrated in 1989 by BBC Radio Merseyside in a programme entitled *They Call Her Their Lilli Marlene*.

Anthony Hayward

**Gladys Ambrose, actress and singer; born Liverpool 28 December 1930; married 1954 Johnny Votel (Johannes Duijsema); two daughters; died Knowsley, Merseyside 4 July 1998.**

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Mondays  
IT, Sci  
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Judge  
John  
Edward  
Jones

## The Rev Michael Vasey

FOR OVER 20 years Michael Vasey was tutor at St John's College, Durham. Hired to teach Old Testament, more by accident than design he soon moved into liturgy. Thereafter he inspired generations of students with a love of the liturgical tradition and the imperative to craft that heritage afresh, so that it might engage Christians in worship that nurtures their faith and fires their zeal for mission.

From 1966 he served tirelessly on the Liturgical Commission. To the work of liturgical reform he brought rigour, attention to detail, and a refusal to accept second best, whether from his own pen or that of his colleagues. Many worshippers in the Church of England will not notice the passing of this backbone boy, but Vasey leaves them a rich legacy of clear rites, strong prayers, and lucid commentary.

Vasey experienced evangelical conversion during his time at Shrewsbury School, and, after reading Chemistry at Balliol, he went to Wycliffe Hall for the theological studies in the classical evangelical style. He was ordained priest in 1972, and after an initial curacy was appointed tutor at St John's College, Durham, in 1975, a post he held until his death.

Almost singlehandedly he produced a new vision of initiation: *On the Why* (1995) brought together the various liturgical contexts in which people become members of the Church. A book of services and prayers to accompany people on their journey to baptism, *Rites on the Way* (forthcoming), will be his parting gift.

Vasey's intellectual grip of the tradition of Christian worship and his instinctual feel for the power of rite bore much fruit. I believe it enabled him to nurture new levels of liturgical awareness among evangelical Anglicans and to win respect among the wider Church. It also made him a fervent and hard-working ecumenist. He served as a member of the ecumenical Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain, and was a dedicated supporter of the Society for Liturgical Study and the international Societas Liturgica. For the last seven years he served also as the Church of England's observer on the Roman Catholic Liturgical Commission. The creation of the ecumenical Institute for Liturgy and Mission at Sarum College, Salisbury, owes much to Vasey's vision and dogged determination.

As a Roman Catholic liturgist, I was

privileged to collaborate with Michael Vasey in a number of contexts. Teaching jointly with him was so much fun; marking student scripts with him a real pain; and, if ever he believed a student's mark to be unjust, examiners' meetings became torture.

Being his friend could be hard work. Time spent relaxing in his company was always an achievement of planning and the result of much juggling, but invariably uplifting and heartening. Yet I did not find him an easy person to be close to; he was deeply private.

Perhaps this was an aspect of the sense of isolation that marked his whole life. His mother, Hannah Strauss, was a Jew. She escaped from Germany via Holland to England, but found no haven, and was moved on to Kenya; her family in Germany was exterminated. In Kenya she met Ernest Vasey, a diplomat who became Minister of Finance to the

*He described negotiating liturgy through Synod as 'rather like doing embroidery with a crowd of football hooligans'*

president Jomo Kenyatta, and the only white in the first independent government. There, Michael Vasey spent his early and fascinating years, and was raised as an only child. Michael carried a disability (through polio). Michael was gay. It is not surprising that he had a profound respect for difference.

His study of culture, homosexuality, and the Bible, *Strangers and Friends* (1995), was well reviewed. I know several people whose lives were lightened and whose faith was affirmed directly through his writing. Although he received letters of gratitude and many invitations to speak on the book, not all members of the Church greeted *Strangers and Friends* with open arms. Vasey was subjected to pressure and abuse – as was the college – and though he bore the personal attacks bravely and with humour, he was saddened by it all.



Perhaps the aspect of Michael Vasey's life and ministry I find most difficult to record is his personal and generous care of individuals. If he did place limits on his charity, I never found them. Many who mourn his death do not fit into any category of liturgy, college, church, friends, or gay.

His sudden death, following a heart attack, has left a gap in the resources of the Church of England that will be difficult to fill. His was a charged and variegated life, and in every facet he gave himself to the full. A finely balanced man and supremely courteous, his intellect and wit, his biblical faith and single-hearted devotion have graced the lives of many.

Amid the clutter of his office and over the last drags of his (usually stale) sherry, Vasey and I would regularly bemoan and compare the savagery of liturgical

material by the General Synod and the Roman bureaucrats. I longed to find a Catholic image to match his vivid and riotous description in the *Church Times* that negotiating liturgy through Synod was "rather like doing embroidery with a crowd of football hooligans". I never did.

Geoffrey Steel

*Michael Richard Vasey, priest, biblical scholar, teacher and writer: born Nairobi, Kenya 23 January 1946; ordained deacon 1971, priest 1972; assistant curate, St Peter and St Paul, Tiberbridge 1971-73; Tutor, St John's College, Durham 1975-93; member, General Synod Liturgical Commission 1986-93; observer, Roman Catholic Liturgical Commission 1991-98; Secretary, Praesidium 1992-98; member, General Synod 1995-98; died Newcastle 28 June 1998.*

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHDAYS

King Hassan II of Morocco, 69; Mr Peter Balfour, former chairman, Charterhouse plc, 77; Sir Phillip Bridges, former Chief Justice of the Gambian, 76; Dame Barbara Cartland, romantic novelist, 97; Mr David Chidgey MP, 56; Mr Richard Demarco, Professor of European Cultural Studies, Kingston University, 68; Mr Tom Hanks, actor, 42; Sir Edward Heath MP, former prime minister, 82; Mr John Heath-Stevens, poet and lecturer, 80; Mr David Hockney, painter, 61; Dame Jill Knight, former MP, 71; Lord Osborne, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 81; Air Marshal Sir John Sutton, 66; Sir Richard Tucker, High Court judge, 88; Mr Derek Twigg MP, 59; General Jari Wahlström, former international leader, Salvation Army, 80; Mr Michael Williams, actor, 63; Mr Richard Wilson, actor and director, 62; Dr Stephen Winkley, Headmaster, Uppingham School, 54.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Ann Radcliffe (Ann Ward), novelist, 1764; Henry Hallam, historian, 1777; Rudolf Schadow, sculptor, 1786; Elias Howe, inventor of the sewing-machine, 1819; Adolf Schreyer, painter, 1828; Wilhelm Moritz Vogel, composer and teacher, 1846; Nikola Tesla, electrician and inventor, 1856; Ottorino Respighi, composer, 1879; Charles Bruce Bairnsfather,

cartoonist, 1888; Simon Marks, first Baron Marks of Broughton, a founder of Marks and Spencer, 1888; Ian Mikardo, former Labour MP, 1908. Deaths: Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1228; Jan van Eyck, painter, 1440; Sir William Berkeley, governor of Virginia, 1677; Philip V, King of Spain, 1746; Edmund Burke, statesman, 1797; Washington Allston, historical painter and writer, 1843; Zachary Taylor, 12th US President, 1850; Christian Friedrich Baron von Stockmar, statesman, 1863; Alexander Keith Johnston, the elder, geographer, 1871; George Frederick Samuel Robinson, first Marquess of Ripon, statesman, 1905; King Camp Gillette, safety-razor inventor and manufacturer, 1932; Sir Francis Meredith Wilfrid Meynell, book designer and typographer, 1975; Randall Thompson, composer, 1984. On this day: Henry VIII divorced Anne of Cleves, 1540; Holland was joined to France under Napoleon, 1810; the Congress of Tucuman was held, at which Argentina declared its independence from Spain, 1816; a massacre of Christians in Damascus started, 1860; the Treaty of Versailles was ratified by Germany, 1919; the Bank of England issued £20 banknotes (previous £20 notes had been withdrawn in 1945); 1970: the Bahamas became independent, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Everild, St Nicholas Pieck and his Companions, The Martyrs of Gorcum (Holland) and St Veronica de Julianis.

### LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Journeys (ii). Turner, Colais Pier: An English Packet Arriving", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Rebecca Merry, "Patters and Symbols in Islamic Art", 2pm. British Museum: Sheila Canby, "Fifty Years On: an introduction", 1.10pm. National Portrait Gallery: Julia Alexander, "Mistress, Magdalene and Madonna: portraits of Barbara Villiers, Countess of Castlemaine, 1660-70", 1.10pm. Penguin Books (at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1): Diane McGuinness and Carmen McGuinness, "Why Children Can't Read and What We Can Do About It", 6.30pm.

### GEORGE CORBYN BARROW

A memorial meeting for George Corby Barrow will be held at 4pm on Monday 3 August, at Friends' Meeting House, Bull Street, Birmingham. Donations, if desired, to Quaker Peace and Service, or the Quaker Housing Trust, both at Friends' House, 177-179 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

### RECEPTIONS

HM Government: The Duke of Edinburgh, ESU President, was the guest of honour at a reception held yesterday evening at Lan-

caster House, London SW1, on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the English Speaking Union. Baroness Blackstone, Minister of State at the Department for Education and Employment, was the host.

### DINNERS

Lucifer Golfing Society: The 62nd Annual Commonwealth Dinner of the Lucifer Golfing Society took place yesterday evening at the Savoy Hotel, London WC2.

Lord Weatherill, President of the Society, presided. Dr A.M. Mathewson, Mr T.D. Preston and Mr P.K.

Mazououdi were the speakers. Among the guests were:

Mr W.C. Clegg, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society; Mr J. Abbott, Captain, Wimbledon Golf Club; Mr D.J. Allport, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society; Lt-Col S.J. Thurner, Support Unit Headquarters and Control, Mr E.J. Steele, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society; Mr G.A. Robertson, Deputy Commander-in-Chief Strike Command, Lord Westerholt, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society; Mr E.H. Phipps, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society; Mr R.H. Ling, Captain, Walton Heath Golf Club; Mr R.D. Fox, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society; Mr Miller, Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society; Mr M.C. Soddy, Past Captain, Lucifer Golfing Society.

### SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Mr Vincent Calcaro, Chairman and CEO of the Crompton and Knowles Corporation of America, was inaugurated as President of the Society of Chemical Industry at the Annual General Meeting held yesterday at the soci-

ety's International Headquarters, London SW1. Mr Calcaro and Mr Ken Minton, Immediate Past President, were the speakers. At an open meeting of the SCI Council, Sir James Black was presented with the 1998 President's Medal. Professor Jean-Marie Lehn gave the Messel Medal Lecture live by video link from the University of Natal, Durban, South Africa.

### APPOINTMENTS

Mr Richard Dales, to be ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway.

Mr Fraser Wilson, to be ambassador to Turkmenistan.

Mr Richard Stagg, to be ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Mr John Andrew Phillips, to be a circuit judge, on the Northern Circuit.

Mr Alastair Murray Babington. Mr Stephen Thompson Alderson and Mr Stephen Rodgers, to be district judges, on the North Eastern Circuit.

Mr John Timothy Robinson, to be a district judge, on the South Eastern Circuit.

Mr Michael Anthony Hovington and Mr Mark Gosnell, to be district judges, on the Northern Circuit.

Mr Anthony Grabiner QC, to be Chairman of the Court of Governors of the London School of Economics and Political Science; Mr Bernard Asher and Mr Bryan Sanderson to be Vice-Chairmen.

WHERE AN applicant had failed in respect of a significant part of his application to register a trademark, the judge should not have ordered that the application be refused completely, but should instead have exercised his discretion to remit the application to the Registrar of Trade Marks to consider whether it should be allowed in an amended form.

The Court of Appeal allowed in part the appeal of the applicant, Hunt-Wesson Inc, against an order of the High Court that its application to register a trademark be refused.

The applicant, an American company, wished to enter the UK market for its products under the "SWISS MISS" mark, and in January 1990 applied to register the mark in respect of chocolate-based drink mixes and milk substitutes. The Trade Marks Registry held that the mark was *prima facie* unacceptable for registration, and advertised it.

Notice of opposition was given by the opponent, Choco-suisse, an association of Swiss chocolate manufacturers. The opponent objected under section 11 of the Trade Marks Act 1938 to the use of the trade mark in relation to the goods in the specification, claiming that by virtue of such use purchasers of the goods would be deceived or confused as to their origin.

The opposition was rejected by the Registrar of Trade Marks, and the opponent appealed to the High Court. In November 1996 the judge remitted the application to start all over again in respect of a narrower class of goods, but counsel for the applicant had said that it was common for the Registrar to require an amendment narrowing

### THURSDAY LAW REPORT

9 JULY 1998

Re Hunt-Wesson Inc  
Court of Appeal  
(Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Mantell)  
2 July 1998

May (Barnett Alexander Charr) for the applicant; Richard Miller QC (Bird & Bird) for the opponent

Lord Justice Peter Gibson said that the judge's conclusion that the use of the mark would cause confusion as to the origin of preparations for making chocolate-based drink mixes could not be impugned, and the appeal must fail in that respect.

He had, however, left it to the applicant to apply to register the mark in relation to the milk substitutes. It had been submitted for the applicant that he should have allowed the original application to be amended, and should have confirmed the registration of the mark limited to the narrower class of goods.

Counsel for the opponent had told the court that it was the practice of the Registry to require an applicant who had been unsuccessful in respect of a significant part of his application to start all over again in respect of a narrower class of goods, but counsel for the applicant had said that it was common for the Registrar to require an amendment narrowing

the specification of the goods to which the mark was to be applied. Surprisingly, there was no authority, nor any textbook statement, which touched on or threw light on the practice in circumstances such as the present.

Despite its reluctance to interfere with the exercise of discretion by a lower court, the court had come to the conclusion that the judge had erred. He had failed to take account of the fact that the opponent, whilst opposing registration of the mark without differentiating between the chocolate-based mixes, had filed no evidence against registration in respect of the milk substitutes. No other opponent had objected to registration despite the advertisement of the application.

Furthermore, the registration of the mark in respect of milk substitutes only could have been made conditional on an express undertaking by the applicant that it intended to use the mark in the United Kingdom on those products.

To require the applicant to start again nearly seven years after the application had been made would waste time and costs in the absence of any evidence of likely opposition or other sufficient reason. The court, if uneasy about the possibility of opposition to the narrower class of goods, or for any other reason, had the power to remit the application to amend to the Registrar, who could consider whether further advertising was required. That was the right course for the court to take in the present case.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

### WORD

WILLIAM HARTSTON  
yuppie, yuppie n.

Originally a yuppie was a young, upwardly mobile professional, while the yuppie was a young urban professional. Yuppies, however, were an early

## OBITUARIES/7

### POLITICAL NOTES

GERALD MURRAY

## Political realism in Northern Ireland



John Hume: partnership government

THE OBJECT of the Good Friday Agreement signed by the British and Irish governments on 10 April 1998 is to create stability, equality and sharing of responsibility at government level between the two communities in Northern Ireland. If fully implemented, it would be a sign that nationalists and Unionists could work together. For the first time since partition, Northern Ireland's institutions through the assistance of a North-South Ministerial Council, and a British Irish Council, would be reflective of its two communities. On close scrutiny it is clear that John Hume's Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) achieved more of its objectives from this agreement than any other Northern Ireland party.

The agreement is in essence the bones of SDLP strategy over the last 28 years. From the party's formation in August 1970, it sought to create partnership government in Northern Ireland with moderate nationalists with a significant Irish dimension. The whole concept of cross-border co-operation, a council of Ireland and power-sharing between unionists and nationalists was set out in SDLP unpublished documents written in 1971.

The SDLP's vision for partnership government and the implementation of its 1971 strategy became a reality in Northern Ireland through the creation of a power-sharing executive in 1974. The partnership government between the SDLP and representatives of the Unionist community only lasted five months. Realistically, the SDLP knew back in the early Seventies that this type of interim settlement which had a significant Irish dimension, and also maintained Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom, could last indefinitely until the majority of the people in Northern Ireland decided otherwise. In the period 1974/75, SDLP membership peaked from 3,644 to a dramatic low of 1,871 in 1976. These figures reflect the initial enthusiasm within the nationalist community for partnership government in Northern Ireland along with Unionists, and the disillusionment which set in after its downfall by militant loyalists in 1974. It paved the way for a political vacuum in Northern Ireland from the mid-Seventies onwards, and the political voice of moderation being replaced by extremism.

Geoffrey Steel

*Michael Richard Vasey, priest, biblical scholar, teacher and writer: born Nairobi, Kenya 23 January 1946; ordained deacon 1971, priest 1972; assistant curate, St Peter and St Paul, Tiberbridge 1971-73; Tutor, St John's College, Durham 1975-93; member, General Synod Liturgical Commission 1986-93; observer, Roman Catholic Liturgical Commission 1991-98; Secretary, Praesidium 1992-98; member, General Synod 1995-98; died Newcastle 28 June 1998.*

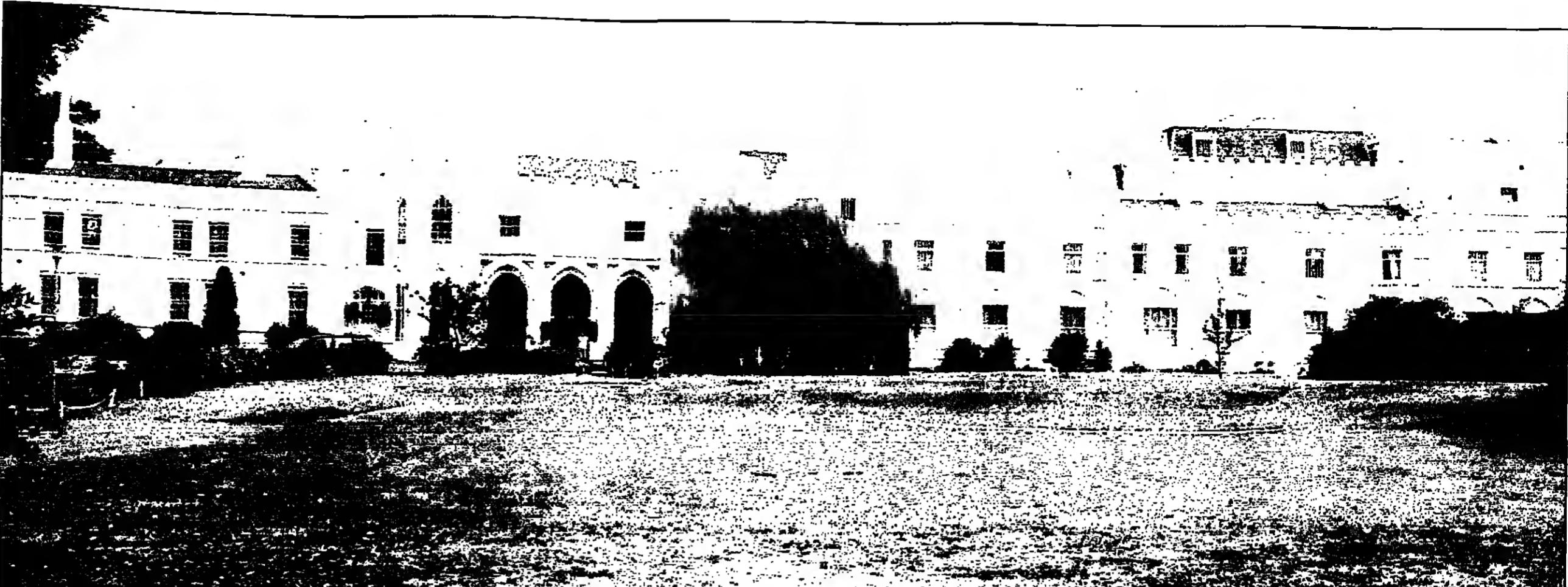
The SDLP has articulated political realism for nationalists in Northern Ireland by working consistently for political structures within the Province that address the realities of partition. This is a major departure from the traditional nationalist viewpoint of demanding British withdrawal and a 32-county unitary state. If the Irish dimension contained in the Good Friday Agreement becomes operational, the quest for Irish unity will lose a lot of its dynamic, and indeed its attractiveness. The SDLP thesis simply states that if both communities begin to work together at government level, and within institutions which exemplify the aspirations and identities of both communities, then it will be up to some future generation to negotiate further developments for Northern Ireland's political destiny.

If a generation in Northern Ireland could elapse whereby nationalists and Unionists could learn to live together on the basis of mutual respect, who knows what nationalists would want the future of the Province to be? Maybe Catholics in Northern Ireland will feel satisfied within the UK if the proposed assembly in Belfast operates effectively. Maybe borders will not matter any more in the new developing Europe. If the truth be told, there is still uncertainty over the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland. However, constitutionally, for the foreseeable future, Northern Ireland will remain part of the United Kingdom.

Gerald Murray is the author of *John Hume and the SDLP* (Irish Academic Press, £27.50)

IF YOU look in the 1993 edition of either the *New Shorter Oxford* or *Chambers* dictionary, you will find both yuppie and yuppie listed.





Roehampton Priory, where the rich and famous flee for comfort and succour when the real world becomes too much for them

DM

## A safe haven for the stars

When Caroline Aherne's world crashed, she fled to the Priory to recuperate. What does this place offer suicidal celebrities? By Virginia Ironside

**T**hey are not called loony-hins these days—or nut-houses. Not even mental hospitals. But even so, the phrase "psychiatric hospital" still conjures up a vision of padded cells and straitjackets, with patients either screaming loudly or whacked out on pills.

But not so at the Priory Hospital at Roehampton, asylum to the stars. I spent a month there suffering from depression last year; other guests (and you feel like a guest there, not a patient) have included Sinead O'Connor, the Marquess of Blandford and Emily Lloyd. More recently Ruby Wax and Paula Yates checked in, and the latest inmate has been the comedienne Caroline Aherne, aka Mrs Merton.

What first hits you about the Priory when you arrive is the look of the place. Built in 1811, next to Richmond Park, it is a huge, white, castellated building designed in Strawberry Hill Gothic, set in a wide lawn covered with trees where squirrels play and birds sing.

As you check in, you feel you are more likely to meet a National Trust volunteer than a doctor, and at the shop you can even buy postcards of the place, to send to your friends.

It's the sort of place you feel you would have to pay to get into rather than pay to get out of, and pay you do—a normal three-week stay costs around £7,000.

Unless, of course, you are one of the 20 per cent of National Health

patients who are lucky enough to get a place there.

There are 105 bedrooms, and they house all kinds of people with psychiatric illness, including alcohol and drug addiction, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, schizophrenia and obsessive compulsive disorders. It is not uncommon to sit having a quiet fag on the lawn and be surrounded by sad, stick-like young girls, all skin and bone, gossipping to each other, and ruddy-faced alcoholics, compulsively smoking—with the odd crazy wandering past to find himself down on the grass and appear to be worshipping a rhododendron bush, or a man who sits by himself yelling:

"Fuck!" at periodic intervals.

Although we're all odd crazies there, you probably would not realise that there was much wrong with any of us if you came into the busy dining-room where all the patients mix together at separate tables chattering, mainly, about their latest treatments.

"Are you on Anafranil?" they ask, between mouthfuls of avocado pear.

"I was on Prozac till my doctor put me to the MAOIs. Now I can't eat cheese. They gave me a Stilnoct last night and I'm still feeling a bit woozy..."

"I've been told I have to have ECT."

"Go for it. It's marvellous. It's the

only thing that worked for me..."

Everyone is in casual clothes, and you are just as likely to sit next to a plasterer from Plaistow, or an unmarried mum from Tottenham, as someone you vaguely recognise from a television programme. There is no class distinction; we are all bound together by our naturally obsessive desire to get better.

During the day there are all kinds of activities on offer. The place is more like a posh health farm than a hospital. You can go to exercise classes, do psychodrama, flower arranging, cooking, art, aromatherapy or yoga, swim, go for walks (though most of the patients don't walk, they shuffle) or attend one of

the many simple classes on offer, which offer explanations of cognitive therapy, techniques to stop feeling anxious, and ideas on how to beat depression.

And it's not just medication that is pushed at the Priory. If it is felt to be suitable, you are offered psychotherapy or cognitive therapy as back-up to pills, or as an alternative.

But the best thing about the place is that, apart from drinking, or jumping out of windows (there are bars on them in one wing) you can do exactly what you like. You can even go home at weekends if the doctors think you are well enough, or go out to dinner in the evening with friends.

The nurses are wonderful, and never too busy to come into your room—there are television sets and telephones in every one—and hold your hand if you're going through a bad patch. In the evenings you can have visitors and even give them lunch or supper in the dining-room; or you can attend one of the many AA meetings, held in the huge Gothic chapel, with piano and Elizabethan chests, and a carved, vaulted ceiling; or you can play Scrabble or do one of the large jigsaw puzzles left lying around. Every night you are offered Horlicks or hot chocolate.

It is all a far cry from the bad old days of the Priory. When my mother was admitted for alcoholism, 30

years ago, in attendance were Dr Flood and Dr Flood (no relation). The corridors were all covered in linoleum, the walls were cream and brown, and the beds iron coils. I remember visiting her—there was not a nurse in sight; I had to find my way to her room by opening all the doors—and she suddenly rose up screaming: "I want mead! I want mead!"

Now she would be admitted to the Galeworthy Wing, specially for addicts, where patients are put through a rigorous, 12-step programme, with group therapy following the de-tox. Now the corridors are carpeted, with fresh flowers (arranged by the patients) at every corner. The walls are painted in soothing pastels, and nurses are always at their station.

I was driven to the Priory by my son. I was crying, plucking at my jumper, wishing I could die and feeling like a cat being taken to the vet, with the sensation that I was being carted off to prison. When I return now, for occasional check-ups, my heart jumps with pleasure at the sight of this stately pile.

Asylum may be an old-fashioned word to use, but that is exactly what the Priory is—a luxurious, healing shelter offered to people at a time when the outside world seems too frightening and depressing to cope with. If more psychiatric hospitals were run on the same lines, people with mental problems would get better more quickly.

But there is always a risk: they might never want to leave.



From left: Caroline Aherne, the Marquess of Blandford, Paula Yates, Sinead O'Connor and Emily Lloyd

### WHO GOES TO THE PRIORY?



### POETIC LICENCE TOWARDS A MOUNTAIN BIKE MONARCHY BY MARTIN NEWELL

The Royal train is to be hired out to "appropriate organisations" as part of a Palace economy drive, it was reported this week.

Removing specs and cleaning throat  
The keeper of the Privy Purse  
Held up a hulking invoice-spike  
And in a tone which verged on terse  
Said, "Things have gone from bad to worse.  
The items here Marm's at a glance  
Will highlight the financial strain  
From school fees, garden parties, gongs  
Repairs to castles, food, champagne  
And worst of all, the Royal train.  
It's not as if you use the thing  
It broke down once, it costs too much  
A streamlined firm would sell it off  
You want to have the common touch  
Why not just cycle, like the Dutch?"  
The monarch hirsled visibly  
Her royal lips pursed in a pout  
Her husband chipped his two pence in:

"Well that's the choo-choo up the spout  
Unless of course... We hire it out!  
"Oh yeah?" She snarled. "And after that?  
The royal yacht? Our carriages.  
With you thrown in to drive the things  
For girls who work in garages  
To hire them for their marriages?  
And while we're at it why not hire  
Balmoral, Buck House and their grounds  
For parties, raves and long weekends?  
Then One can play some happening sounds  
And charge the punters fifty pounds.  
The Keeper of the Privy Purse  
Said, "It's agreed then. If it please  
Your Highnesses, we'll hire the train  
And use the money earned from fees  
To buy you mid-range A.T.B.s."



**'Norris's role was known only to a handful of detectives'**

continued from page 1  
in the late Eighties, when he was seen to meet David Norris. In the inquiry it was revealed that David Norris was an informer.

By the early Nineties the criminals in Norris's South London milieu were moving into the lucrative trade in illegal drugs. The stakes and violence were growing. More and more of Norris's associates had been arrested, and that was raising suspicions. In court some defendants, in an effort to be acquitted, started suggesting that they had fallen foul of a malicious set-up by a police informer called David Norris. The die was cast.

Nemesis came seven years after Norris became an informer. He became embroiled in a large cannabis deal with some heavy criminals. The deal went wrong, and the two Mr Bigs had a score to settle.

One April Sunday evening Paul Buckley, a neighbour of the Norris family, was settling down to watch television in his South London home when he heard several loud bangs. A sharp crack much closer followed, as part of his front window jinked on to the carpet. As Mr Buckley cautiously pulled back the curtain he heard Mrs Norris from over the road screaming as a motorbike surged away. When he opened his front door, Mr Buckley saw her bending over the corpse of her husband Dave.

David Norris had just arrived home with his wife who was pregnant, and the three children. As they got out the car two men on a high-powered trail-bike pulled up and the passenger, his face hidden by a visor, opened fire. David Norris tried to flee, shouted "no, no" several times and fell to the ground dead.

He was not the first and will certainly

not be the last informer to die. In the early Nineties the rules were tightened again. Informers had always been part of the underworld's furniture, but tips, nods and winks exchanged over drinks in underworld pubs have been superseded by a bureaucracy of informant-handling. Inevitably, questions persist over the way the police use "grasses".

This week's report highlighted concerns over the police use of illegal immigrants, "for the purpose of acting as informants, particularly in connection with the illegal drugs trafficking". Scotland Yard have had serious difficulty in infiltrating the Jamaican crime gangs, and employed Delroy "Epsy" Denton, 36, a Jamaican criminal with a long history of violence. He had entered Britain in 1993, using his brother's passport and was being paid £50 per week as an informant regis-

tered with the Home Office. In 1995 he was raped and stabbed 18 times. Marcia Dawes, aged 24, in 1996 he was jailed for life.

The police also allowed a Jamaican gangster, Rohan Thomas, to enter Britain illegally to raise the credibility of the police informer Eaton Green, who was helping police trying to solve a series of Yardie killings.

The men carried out a robbery at gunpoint of more than 100 people at a "blues" party in Nottingham. Concern in the Afro-Caribbean community, especially from the family of Marcia Dawes, led to the setting up of a Police Working Party who wrote this week's report.

But problems will inevitably remain.

Dealing with a criminal, albeit an informant, who has hidden power over his criminal associates will always be fraught

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## THE SUCCESSION

WHO'S NEXT FOR  
'START THE WEEK'?

FINDING A replacement presenter who carries Bragg's cachet will be a problem. His experience and command aren't utterly irreplaceable but Radio Four is currently not exactly overstocked with people of his calibre who can handle the heavyweights and run discussions. Replace him with a standard BBC rent-a-mouth - you know who you are - and the impressive guest list may dwindle.

Paul Allen, recently dumped from the lamented arts slot, *Kaleidoscope*, has the experience and range of knowledge for the job, although his track record in current affairs is less tested. Mark Lawson, who presents the *Kaleidoscope* replacement, *Front Row*, is bound to be eyeing up the opportunity. Unlike *Front Row*, *Start the Week* is on only once a week, which means less work and a higher profile to go along with his headmasterly marshalling of BBC's *Late Review*. Speaking of which, how about Germaine Greer? Her rare mix of scepticism and enthusiasm would supply a healthy dose of unpredictability to proceedings.

DAVID BENEDICT

# Did he really have to go?

**Lord Bragg's departure from *Start the Week* is a victory for the politicians – but not for the nation's listeners.** By Richard D North

THE NEWS that Lord Bragg would no longer be hosting *Start the Week*, but instead be conducting some sort of interview in another slot was pretty stale by the time it became official yesterday.

However, the months of speculation before yesterday's announcement did not pre-empt the further revelation that Lord Bragg could not be allowed a programme like *Start the Week* because it sometimes had a proximity to news issues, and thus demanded a degree of neutrality which could no longer be expected from a broadcaster who was to become a "working peer" and take the Labour whip. Blimey. Pick the bones out of that.

We are told to forget manipulation from outside. Radio Four's press people were at pains yesterday to say that this development had nothing to do with the Tory media-monitoring outfit which had apparently declared that Bragg would be a socialist too far in his old slot. Radio Four had apparently come to the same conclusion itself.

This seems rather odd. Melvyn Bragg may or may not have declared himself a New Labourite on air, but surely we all knew perfectly well that he was the defining

Hampstead leftie with impeccable liberal leanings. He is the perfect stereotype of everything which made David Starkey, Madsen Pirie, Brian Sewell and all the other counter-revolutionaries such

mañana.

So what? *Start the Week* has become a splendid programme, because of the prejudices and interests of Lord Bragg. A few years ago, Melvyn took his broadcasting persona and the show itself out of a mire in which both had languished. His tone had been hectoring, dismissive and self-righteous. The change happened, I fancy, about the time the then Archbishop of York, Lord Habgood, went on *Newsnight* and gently but powerfully exorcised the media for the "culture of contempt" which had become prevalent in Britain. I hope it's not a coincidence, but Bragg seemed to renounce short temper for sweet reason.

Coincidentally or not, the subject matter for *Start the Week* became modern science. Week after week, Bragg would explore the ideas surrounding consciousness and its evolution. Oliver Sacks and Richard Gregory were regulars. *The Selfish Gene* and the purposefulness, or



Melvyn Bragg is not predictable. His opinion basket contains quite a few ill-assorted eggs.

rather the lack of it, of evolution have become our weekly fare. The genetic provenance of altruism was a subject we would eat our egg soldiers to. True, we would also get doses of other middlebrow intellectual issues. Feminists of the brainier sort would come on and squabble and sociologists would do battle about the underclass. We had a sort of compressed issue of the old *Listener* magazine. The genius of the thing was that science was discussed in an eighteenth century way: as a matter of human interest for any cultivated person.

What Bragg's own opinions were hardly mattered, just as they will not matter now that he is a working peer. His talent is for making ferociously intelligent people talk plainly and that comes mostly from the position – and it probably is not assumed – of not being a rocket scientist himself. He is a butler to other people's good dining.

But even if he had strong political opinions and flaunted them, they would not matter. Party because, at this level, even political argument is not easily seen as ordinarily "on" or "off" message. Audiences are perfectly able to detect that Frank Field, MP, a compassionate Labour social affairs thinker and minister is in some senses more right-wing than the traditional wet Tory.

There are hangers and floggers and prison reformers in either of the two "left" and "right" parties. Alan Clark is an animal rights supporter, for God's sake. So a declared New Labour supporter might not be such a predictable animal. This would all a little if Lord Bragg became a minister. Then he would sometimes have to exchange the honourable boldness of the opinionated man for the honourable dissembling of the ministerial colleague enjoined to collective re-

sponsibility. Even then, especially as a peer, he could almost always wrily evade difficulty, and be understood to have it.

Besides, Melvyn Bragg is not especially predictable. His opinion basket contains quite a few ill-assorted eggs. In recent years, he has come to accept that technologically-based industries are necessary, however unpopular they might be. One morning, I was on *Start the Week*, banging on about the need for progress. Bragg looked as though he was becoming bad-tempered. I was frightened and nervous, so I said: "And then, of course, there's nuclear power, which we'll all be glad of one day..." Graftingly, Bragg started to purr.

You see, Melvyn Bragg is a Cumbrian and knows people who know Sellafield, the nuclear industry's great redoubt, and he does not like the southern condescension towards these hardworking, intelli-

gent men and women who make our power for us, etc. etc...

Even if we soon learned how to predict Lord Bragg's position on differing matters, that need not at all get in the way of his conducting discussions in an illuminating and fair-minded way. It might even help, since he'd probably bend over backwards to ensure that the other side in the argument was well-represented. Surely even the partisan can discuss political issues as though they were genuine matters of intellectual curiosity.

There is at least one aspect of Lord Bragg's ennoblement and political involvement which should produce a wholly benign effect in a broadcaster; however political his subject matter might become. The most important problem the British polity faces is a growing dislike and distrust of the ordinary, boring processes of formal democracy. Parliament and parliamentarians

are routinely disparaged. It has become a sort of blood sport. New Labour seems to endorse some of this with its reliance on opinion polls and the paraphernalia of market research.

We could do with a wider and deeper appreciation that the Government, even this particular Government, of which some of us are bound to disapprove, is nonetheless "our" government. Its failings are a disappointment, not a piece of soppy opera or a game.

A Lord Bragg, increasingly involved in the process, definitely part of the establishment, proudly, but modestly, offering his tuppence worth in Parliament, could come back to any imaginable Radio Four programme an enriched broadcaster. Would that some of the other arrogant popinjays who present the nation's debates were similarly educated, softened, and chastened.

## Glimpsed shades of true magic

THEY WERE a very excitable crowd. London ballet-lovers haven't seen a three-act classic since Christmas and they were out in force at the Coliseum for the first night of the Royal Ballet's summer season: a revival of Natalia Makarova's 1989 production of *La Bayadère*.

It is customary for those in the Know to clap when the stars of the evening make their first appearance but this lot were ready to applaud anything in a turban. They got the wrong man the first time but recovered to give a warm hand to Ilek Mukhamedov as he slumped on complete with spotlight and large stuffed tiger. Mukhamedov was not the dancer he was, but he's still a greater dance actor than most hoofers will

ever be, and he eats up hokum like *La Bayadère* with a spoon.

There is a silent-movie air about the florid tale of a beautiful temple dancer whose turbaned squeeze leaves her for the Rajah's daughter. You half expect captions – "We are discovered!" or "The Brahmin swears his revenge". This can degenerate into farce (and there were rather too many giggles on Tuesday) but Mukhamedov played it to the hilt.

Unimpressed by Deborah Bull's Rajah's daughter (she wasn't alone, I'm afraid) he stared into space until her veil was whisked away, at which point his whole body seemed to swell with arousal. He paced himself with care and, as usual, saved himself for the second act solo.

DANCE  
LA BAYADERE  
ROYAL BALLET  
LONDON COLISEUM

producing some impressive leaps and tours *en l'air*.

His first love was danced by Virginia Durante. Her tiny, flexible body, her exotic looks and her neat *jetés* and pointework make her ideal. In Mukhamedov's very safe hands she moves with the ease and confidence of a little girl in daddy's arms and, between them, they raise the story from melodrama to tragedy.

The designs look very well in the gilded Victoriana of Matcham's Col-

iseum. Yolanda Sonnabend's gilded pastel tutus add to the general galant air. Pier Luigi Samaritani's delicious scenery is painted in the manner of the Kirov's 1901 backdrops and the sumptuous palaces and Himalayan vistas look more than usually handsome on the wide, deep stage. The distance between stage and stalls at the Coliseum is far shorter than at Covent Garden and this is not always to their advantage.

Most of the acting was perfunctory and some of the dancing was under-rehearsed. All the energy and concentration had gone into the crucial Kingdom of the Shades scene in which one dancer after another peeps out from the back in a tip-tilted *arabesque penché* until

the stage is filled with a flock of tutus. It is a magical sequence: you feel a little thrill as each new girl appears and a qualm of disappointment as the supply finally gives out.

Even the most ignorant ballet-goer knows that they're all supposed to be doing the same thing at the same time and the human eye is very good at spotting the tiniest flaw in the fractal geometry. There were very few slips from Anthony Dowell's well-drilled chorines. But although they pulled off the punishing chain of *penchées* very tidily, they need to relax more if they are to turn the steps into poetry.

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LOUISE LEVENE



All the energy was focused in a single scene Laurie Lewis

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## Berkoff's evening of villainy

THEATRE  
SHAKESPEARE'S  
VILLAINS  
THEATRE ROYAL  
HAYMARKET, LONDON

STEVEN BERKOFF has never been accused of understatement. His latest solo, *Shakespeare's Villains*, is even subtitled *A Masterclass in Evil*. You can buy him in book form, on audio and on video-cassette in the foyer, but for the real McCoy you must venture inside.

Only on stage do you really see what makes him tick. He is the most physical of actors. In a succession of bad-guy portraits from the usual – Iago, Richard III – to the unexpected – Hamlet, Oberon – he uses his physical prowess to whip characters out of nowhere, topped off by twists and contortions of his extraordinarily malleable face.

Dressed entirely in black and looking like a cross between Peter Brook and John McVicar, he is discovered outlined in a spotlight. He holds the silence before leaping into character as Iago. Almost instantly he is out again, explaining his theory about this



most "mediocre" of villains. Having set the scene he nips back into character. This play is used throughout but the result is a collapsed structure. With each segment he announces what he will show us, then does it, followed by a summary of what he has just done. Even at its best, this merely deflates the atmosphere. Some of his theorising is amusing, as he cracks jokes at the expense of the characters, but unless you are a fully paid-up member of the Berkoff fan club, the peculiarly self-aggrandising tone, complete

with a calculated, bluffing "who me?" response to applause, is rather wearying. There is also a whiff of misogyny. His female characters are ludicrously stereotyped. His simpering, sashaying Lady Macbeth is like the impersonation of a drag queen rather than the work of a powerful actor.

It is also tiresome to hear one of his political harrumphs bemoaning that due to "political correctness", white actors are forced to forgo the opportunity of developing their range by playing Othello. How many black Hamlets have there been?

It is his intensely physical acting that draws people. He underlines and punctuates words; his clawing hands rein us in, or we are dismissed with the sweep of an arm. Initially highly expressive, it grows more and more mannered. He also scuppers his power by breaking up every line with a staccato rhythm, so that the sense drains away.

Bizarrely, he is at his best with caricature. His instant sketch of Polonius with stoop and beard is neat and funny, and his persuasive East End Jewish Shylock makes Ron Moody's Fagin look Roman Catholic. In both cases he invests the characterisations with such zest and vigour that his conviction wins you over.

If the rest of the characterisations were as bold and paradoxically detailed, you might come away with a greater sense of what he describes as the vast and various shades of villainy in Shakespeare.

As it is, the overriding im-

pression is that Berkoff is a good actor, but not a great one.

Brendan Cole, 25, unemployed, New Zealand I didn't know a lot about Steven Berkoff before I came here, but it was interesting to see a contemporary take on the villains in Shakespeare. He did it with a lot of humour. I guess some of his philosophies, particularly a lot of Freud, have been overtaken in the Nineties. But he has been around in theatre for a long time so it was a combination of traditional and modern views – with a lot of panache and a lot of flair.

Julia Leadbetter, 27, unemployed, London It was good. I really enjoyed it. I thought it was a good way of explaining Shakespeare.

Kyoko Nakajima, 32, reporter, Japan This is really his one-man show; he is showing off his skill. The audience loved it. He had a good balance, a really entertaining kind of play. Gerrit van Aken, 45, dramatist, Holland

## EXIT POLL

WHAT THE PUNTERS THOUGHT ABOUT BERKOFF'S 'SHAKESPEARE'S VILLAINS'

I think there was a certain amount of misinterpretation but the performance was truly amazing. It was a good piece of entertainment, technically sound, well researched, though there were some things I had noticed before myself.

Craig Donaghy, 26, sales assistant, London "I always thought he was one of the Shakespearean actors who really understood Shakespeare. And in managing to bring all the characters together in this and by himself, was amazing.

James Dunsmore, 24, actor, Wales I thought Berkoff really brought something personal to the performance. With the bare stage and harsh lighting at moments, there was really very little between him and the audience.

INTERVIEWS BY JENNIFER RODGER

# FILM

## He didn't get his Mojo working

### THE BIG PICTURE



RYAN GILBEY

MOJO (15)  
DIRECTOR: JEZ BUTTERWORTH  
STARRING: HANS MATHESON,  
IAN HURT, HAROLD PINTER  
RUNNING TIME: 93 MINUTES

THERE IS a moment in *Absolute Beginners* when the director, Julian Temple, pays homage to *Rear Window* by moving the camera across the exterior of a Soho building, dipping into the vignettes unfolding in each office. In one of them, we see Lionel Blair as a salacious music impresario grooming a junior Elvis and drooling over the boy's snake hips, snarl and quiff. That detail reminds us that behind every primping young blade in pop music history lurked pimps and puppets who always made a point of sampling the goods they were flogging.

The new British film *Mojo*, which Jez Butterworth has directed and adapted from his own play, reveals what we might have seen if Temple had manoeuvred his camera inside that office, down the stairwell, across the dance floor and into the dim back rooms where gangsters were bidding for the souls of adolescent boys and signing contracts in each other's blood.

Although *Mojo* has a different agenda to *Absolute Beginners*, it too is set in a mythical Fifties Soho evoked by a production designer (Hugo Luczyc-Wybowi) who fuses grubby realism with Rococo glamour. Its characters are Jack-the-Lads dabbling in the freshly minted music industry, frustrated by its reliance on intangible emotion over business acumen.

The brilliant young boy Sidney (Andy Serkis) is so insignificant that while he is eavesdropping on a meeting with a rival gang, the heavies file out of the room and don't even notice him tottering on a chair, ear cocked to the door. His sidekick Sweets (Martin Gwynn Jones) is a jittery boy, easily impressed; he sees the night-club where he works decorated with sequins and gasps, "It's like Little Richard walked in and exploded!"

Their boss, the proprietor Ezra (Ricky Tomlinson), may be a blanckmange of a man but he knows what is good for business. "There aren't enough schwartzers here," he whines, scrutinising the Saturday night crowd of sharp-suited lads and ditzy girls in crimpole. When black faces start appearing in the doorway, Ezra beams like a proud father.

In fact, he is a proud father. Not to his own son, the sullen Baby (Aiden Gillen), but to the recently acquired rock'n'roll prodigy Silver Johnny (Hans Matheson), who has come to replace Baby in Ezra's affections as well as in his bed. More ambiguous are the exchanges between Baby



Hans Matheson as teenage rock'n'roll idol Silver Johnny in Jez Butterworth's film *Mojo*

and Johnny, who have the tentative relationship of being two wives, one ex, one current, of the same man.

*Mojo* invites comparisons with *Reservoir Dogs* in its fussy dialogue and claustrophobic setting, but one advantage that the film has over the American crime genre is its fluency in the subtextual language of male camaraderie.

Butterworth is big on subconscious desires, to the extent that the relationships in the picture sometimes do not make any sense. In a reversal of convention, you can find yourself turned into a character's deepest desires, without knowing exactly what it is that he does for a living. The implication is that these people are petty gangsters, but they are a lesser-spotted breed who, when the time comes to defend themselves, pool all their contacts and favours and can still only come up with a gun no bigger than a pinkie finger.

This is symbolism at the expense of plausibility, and though Butterworth is never short of a symbol or two, he has difficulty animating them. The bicycle bell which Baby rings insistently like a petulant child, the big dumb hunk of marble-blue fruitcake which provides the only sustenance for the gang while they are hiding from their enemies; these embellishments have an inert, symbolic presence that snowballs into aimless reiteration. There is a mystical aura about the glittery jacket which is passed from Johnny to Baby, signifying tainted innocence, but you yearn for experience to be represented in human terms, rather than through the bottomless wealth of the props box.

Theatricality isn't generally a problem in *Mojo*. Or rather, it's a problem in unexpected ways. Butterworth's grasp of cinematic technique is very assured – slow-motion, freeze-frames, jump-cuts and

flashbacks are deployed with breezy confidence. He even nods in the direction of Sergio Leone by introducing onto the soundtrack a ringing telephone which won't be answered until a scene or two later, a trick memorably used in *Once Upon a Time in America*.

These mannerisms suggest an over-urgent lurch away from the proscenium arch, but Butterworth knows when to hold the camera still too. There are strange tableaux here, one of which, a prolonged take of a thug stripping naked before dismembering a corpse, assumes a grave beauty, particularly in light of the scene which has preceded it, where a man has agonised over a murder, repeatedly pointing a gun at his victim before shrinking away in horror. The moods of these scenes are elegantly complementary: the time and tears which go into death, followed by the serenity of its aftermath.

But the power of *Mojo* is repeatedly diminished by the chasm between physical and symbolic realities. This is exemplified by its most riveting scene, when Johnny finds himself alone on a sofa with the gangster who has poached him from Ezra – Sam Ross, played as a slab of toxic malignancy by Harold Pinter. The camera fixes on the couple for a long time, waiting for Sam to pounce on Johnny and peck the flesh from his boozes. It's a beautifully written scene, very funny (Johnny: "I've got the soul of a black man." Sam: "Sorry?"), and heavy with a cargo of menacing tenderness.

And then? Then the doorbell rings. Yes, the doorbell, that old standby of the writer who needs to bring two characters together very quickly without really knowing how. And what does Sam do? He goes to answer it. Right there, at the edge of the sofa, on the verge of getting his paws on

the boy for whom he has killed and blackmailed, he rises to get the door. Couldn't his henchmen get it? No, because, in another of the screenplay's astonishing contrivances, he has told them to sit out for a few hours, a decision which is tantamount to slapping a bull's eye on his own forehead.

It's fair enough for Butterworth to complete his battle between fathers and sons by having Baby turn up to rescue Johnny from the evil "stepfather" Sam, thereby compensating for the fact that he couldn't save him, or himself, from Ezra – a spot of 1990s-style psychological closure imposed on a 1950s story. But doorbells? Stooges with the night off? Ravenous paedophiles postponing their conquests to see who has called round for tea? Only an absolute beginner would believe that a film which is all subtext and no surface could be anything other than a success in theory, and a failure in practice.

### ALSO SHOWING

**Sling Blade** Billy Bob Thornton (15) ■ **Mad City** Costa-Gavras (15)  
■ **Touch** Paul Schrader (15) ■ **Kiss or Kill** Bill Bennett (18) ■ **Guru in Seven** Shani Grewal (18)

## Billy Bob proves less is more

THE ACTOR Billy Bob Thornton undergoes a remarkable physical transformation in the new film *Sling Blade*. His squinting eyes recede beneath his brow, and his jaw juts out like a bottom drawer left open. His whole face seems to fold in on itself. When actors get the chance to play a disabled character, the result is usually a transparent display of technique and calculation, but you don't detect that in Thornton. His portrayal of Karl, a mentally disabled man released into the world after a lifetime in what he calls "the nervous hospital", is a lesson in understatement.

Thornton extends this judicious restraint to his direction and writing, and was rewarded last year with an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay. He holds the camera back, denying you any emotional dialogue with the action, but uncovering in the process those moments of stinging honesty from which other directors cut away. One devastating scene has the camera calmly observing an incident of taut domestic violence, with a boy burling books and bottles at his mother's sadistic boyfriend as Karl sits in the foreground, blinking numbly, apparently nonplussed. The photography (by Barry Markowitz) has a parched texture, as though dust had gathered in the lens during one of Thornton's painfully long takes.

The film catches itself in a few of the obvious traps, such as idealising Karl and denying him basic human impulses; a love affair with a disabled woman, for instance, proceeds no fur-



Candid camera: Billy Bob Thornton, left, in "Sling Blade".

ther than a gift of flowers and some coy hand-holding. But mostly you are struck by the stark, uncompromising nature of the picture, a quality exemplified in the uniformly excellent performances: Thornton, the late JT Walsh as a mocking fellow patient, and, especially, the country singer Dwight Yoakam as a bigot who is the only obstacle between Karl and a harmonious life. Special mention should also go to Daniel Lanois' troubling and eclectic score, which mixes twangy slide guitars with choral work, drum machines and various com-

puterised bleeps and squeaks. It gets to you like the film.

Thornton's achievement is all the more pronounced in a week that sees two formerly inspirational directors sleepwalking through their latest projects. Costa-Gavras may never make another movie driven by the sheer visceral and intellectual force of *Z* or *State of Siege*, but his new picture *Mad City* is a crushing disappointment by any standards. Dustin Hoffman plays a weasely TV reporter who stumbles on a hostage drama at a museum, where a disgruntled ex-employee (John Travolta) has produced a gun in the hope of getting his job back. As the crisis escalates, Hoffman steps in as PR and coaches Travolta on how to appeal to audience sympathies.

From the opening shots of a long-lens camera being assembled like a sniper's rifle, Costa-Gavras plumps only for the most despairingly reductive kind of satire. You know what you are getting: another prolonged assault on TV, as though cinema could never be guilty of the same relentless buffing of moral complexities. The early scenes are played as sizzling black comedy, and it is a pity the film does not retain this hard edge. Most detrimental is the metamorphosis of Hoffman's sidekick (Mia Kershner), from goofy cub reporter to ruthless media hitch in a mere two days. I never realised that some women respond to extreme stress by learning to power-dress and wear lipstick. Perhaps there's a study to be done.

Paul Schrader is another fine director who appears to be treading water. His adaptation of Elmore Leonard's fruity novel *Touch* is a comedy that stricks inches clear of the funny-bone. Schrader seems uncertain of his film's tone; his comic rhythms are way off, and he goes on a wild goose chase for satire in a text that stubbornly resists it. *Touch* traces the flight path of those vultures who move in on a latter-day saint (Sheek Ulrich). He is healing the blind and bleeding from stigmata, and the promoter Christopher Walken wants a piece of the action. Only Bridget Fonda sparkles, though, when she shows Ulrich that being human can be divine. "Do you think stigmata blood can go in the wash?" she chirrups on laundry day.

Two other new films try to disguise their shallowness with quick-fire editing. *Kiss or Kill* is a pretentious Australian road-movie-cum-serial-killer-drama with intense performances from Frances O'Connor and Matt Day as a pair of scam merchants, one of whom may be a psychopath. *Guru in Seven* is a far more excruciating experience, a kind of Asian *Afro* in which an obnoxious young chancer attempts to sleep with seven women in a week to attain guru status. I fondly imagined the plots of both films merging, so that O'Connor and Day granted his wish and made him a guru in seven. Seven pieces, that is.

All films on release from tomorrow

RYAN GILBEY

**Hilarious.**  
Imaginative, stylish and entertaining...  
John Hurt is superb

**"Sensationally good**  
...The unexpected delight of the year."  
—SUNDAY EXPRESS

**"A shining gem...**  
one of the funniest films I've seen for a while"  
—THE OBSERVER

**"smart, sharp and irrepressibly naughty"**  
—INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

**JOHN HURT**  
**JASON PRIESTLEY**  
**love and death**  
**ON LONG ISLAND**

o film by RICHARD KWIECIŃSKI

**VIRGIN MARKET** CHELSEA CINEMA  
RENOIR CINEMA  
RIDE CINEMA  
PALACE CINEMA  
RIO CINEMA  
GATE CINEMA  
STAN'S CINEMA  
METRO CINEMA

Barbican  
Brixton  
Camden  
Croydon  
Finsbury Park  
Gateshead  
Glasgow  
Harrow  
Hove  
Luton  
Middlesbrough  
Newcastle  
Nottingham  
Oxford  
Sheffield  
Southampton  
Southend  
Stockport  
Tottenham  
Warrington

The star who defined the Eighties' action hero has fallen on hard times. Will he be back? By Cameron Docherty



# Arnie: all pumped up and nowhere to go

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER has survived gunfire, bomb blast, and even Brigitte Nielsen. But now, after more than a decade as Hollywood's reigning box office champion, it seems that the ageing super-hero is under increasing pressure to abdicate.

This summer, as the studios unveil one mega-budget action extravaganza after another, Schwarzenegger is conspicuous by his absence. The actor who cornered the market in what Hollywood calls "event" movies is not competing this year. Despite his attempts to move several ambitious projects into production, each has faltered in the preliminary stages.

Recently, Warner Brothers pulled the plug on his \$120m (£74m) sci-fi vehicle, *I Am Legend*, to be directed by Ridley Scott. A combination of huge salaries and lavishly constructed sets left the cash-strapped studio wondering what the film would have to gross before it made a dime. Earlier, Sony Pictures balked for the same reasons at *With Wings as Eagles*, in which Arnold planned to play a Nazi.

Now Schwarzenegger has no new movies pending, and the trio of *Batman & Robin*, *Jingle all the Way* and *Eraser* serve as evidence of his waning box-office status. "Arnold's time has passed," says Joel Silver, producer of the *Lethal Weapon* series. "Now the heroes have changed. Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt are the right age to carry any action movie."

Of course, Schwarzenegger has been written off before, bouncing back from the colossal setback of 1993's *Last Action Hero* with *True Lies*, easily one of his best action movies. However his recent failures have revealed the first chink of vulnerability. The question is: Does he have the desire to stay on top?

Now 51, Schwarzenegger would appear to be in a luxury bind unique to Hollywood superstars: he has climbed so high, there is little headroom left.

With his love of fine cigars and off-road vehicles, like his Hummer, he has become a gold-card representative of the good life. He has a beautiful Kennedy wife, Maria Shriver, and four children, and his millions are invested wisely.

"Arnold's scaled all the heights," says his friend James Cameron. The film-maker, currently in talks to team up once more with his *Terminator* star for a remake of *Planet of the Apes*, dismisses the notion that Schwarzenegger is a spent force. "If Arnold said tomorrow, 'I'm going to retire and spend time with my family,'

*I don't think he'll retire - he's got nothing left to prove, but he's a fanatic. He still wants to make the perfect movie and keep pushing the boundaries of what's possible'*

wouldn't blame him. He's got nothing left to prove. But I don't think he'll do that. He's a fanatic. He still wants to make the perfect movie and keep pushing the boundaries of what's possible."

It has been almost 20 years since the former Mr Universe arrived in America. With no studio system to mould him, he was his own studio system. He promoted his body-building books, his movies and, later, his Republican politics with the same unstoppable, upbeat open agenda. The secret of the great salesman is that he makes the buyer complicit in the sale. The object itself is secondary. Arnold reduced the art of the deal to words of two syllables. Make movie. Sell movie. You come see movie. You happy, me happy.

His muscular frame straddled the arc

from Greek mythology to sci-fi. His iconic status derives from being so bold a presence that he can be transported into the past (*Conan the Barbarian*) or the future (*Total Recall*) and still blend into the landscape. His definitive action roles are not those in which he is simply the biggest gorilla on screen, as in such thumping matches as *Red Heat* and *Eraser*, but those in which he is a cyber figure, a hot-wired combination of sinew and circuitry. In *Terminator 2*, he is a trash compactor with attitude. His parting shots and catch phrases - what critic Nigel Andrews calls "Arnold-speak": "I'll be back", "Hasta la vista, baby" - sound like the base notes of a witty computer a butch Hal.

Therefore, it makes good sense for Schwarzenegger to continue this tried and trusted formula (with *Planet of the Apes* the ideal vehicle to prove the naysayers wrong), offering his fans relief from the family-fun frolics of *Jingle all the Way* and *Junior*. If he is to succeed, however, he will have to fight the pretenders to his crown.

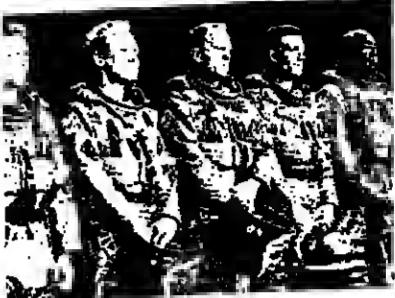
Critics believe his days are numbered because audiences are tired of watching him cheat death in so many comic-book story lines, and want to see the bullet-proof icon in jeopardy. "Vulnerability is important in a hero," agrees the director Jan de Bont (*Speed*, *Twister*). "It's hard for me to relate to Schwarzenegger or Stallone any more. You get more inside the head of a Connery or an Eastwood. That's why they've stayed on top for so long."

But Schwarzenegger has his image to maintain. "Let's face it, I'm typecast by my looks," he once admitted. "There's only so much I can achieve as an actor. I don't have the range of a De Niro or a Hoffman. I cannot hide from what I am."

If that were true, he would have been displaced long ago by Dolph Lundgren or Jean-Claude Van Damme. It's his desire and self-belief that have carried him this far. Would you dare write him off?

## COMING SOON

THIS SUMMER'S POTENTIAL BIG GUNS:



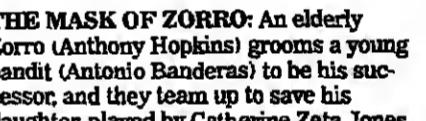
ARMAGEDDON: An asteroid the size of France is hurtling towards Earth. The safety of the entire human race is in the hands of - don't laugh - Bruce Willis and Ben Affleck, oil drillers hired by NASA to blow it to smithereens.



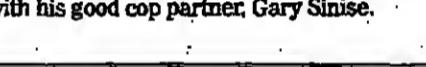
LETHAL WEAPON 4: The whole gang - Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Rene Russo and newcomer Chris Rock - join forces to fight a Los Angeles counterfeiting ring led by an Asian mobster.



THE X-FILES: FBI agents Mulder (David Duchovny) and Scully (Gillian Anderson) investigate the bombing of a Dallas office building and find, as usual, that there is more to it than meets the eye.



THE MASK OF ZORRO: An elderly Zorro (Anthony Hopkins) grooms a young bandit (Antonio Banderas) to be his successor, and they team up to save his daughter, played by Catherine Zeta Jones.



SNAKE EYES: When the US Secretary of Defense is assassinated at an Atlantic City boxing match, bad cop Nicholas Cage is called in to catch the slippery assassin with his good cop partner, Gary Sinise.

# B-movie overkill cuts Godzilla down to size

It was meant to be a monster. The posters proclaimed 'size does matter.' But audience reaction has been limp. By Liese Spencer

A rapacious creature has been stalking our cinemas over the past few years: the Hollywood "event" movie, high on hype and pre-release merchandising, this studio monster batis of critical bulls like King Kong swatting biplanes, taking millions in its opening weekend then storming overseas, before dazed punters have time to decide whether or not the film is any good.

*Twister*, *Dante's Peak*, the even *Deep Impact* - these mutant B movies have escaped from the underground laboratories of George Pal and

Roger Corman to run rampant through the multiplexes, pounding summer schedules to pulp with their brainless, big-budget spectacle.

This year it was the turn of Sony's \$125m (£77m) *Godzilla*. With its state-of-the-art special effects and \$50m (£31m) "size does matter" marketing campaign, the director Roland Emmerich and the producer Dean Devlin's scaly successor to *Independence Day* looked likely to become the biggest B movie of all time.

Audiences who had enjoyed watching the White House

blown up by aliens would get to see a giant reptile stamp on New York skyscrapers. Sony would trump the \$90.2m (£56m) taken by *The Lost World* on its opening weekend, and everyone would go home happy.

Except that it has not quite happened that way. Released in the States last month, *Godzilla* cleared only \$75m (£46m) on its first weekend, much less than industry insiders had predicted. In subsequent days critical sulking meant that profits dropped by 67 per cent to just over \$18m (£11m). Of course, these takings, along with the \$750m (£463m) already made from merchandise, mean Sony's blockbuster is hardly a failure. *Godzilla* has made money, just not enough money.

The director, Roland Emmerich, boyish in his baseball cap, admits that Sony's hard sell has been stressful. "Godzilla had the biggest opening of any film, ever," he sighs. "It was the worst night of my life. When a studio makes a film like *Godzilla*, it is not just a movie, it is a whole industry: I do not want to get so caught up in all that next time. It is strange as a director to hear your movie has made \$75m and then be told that it is 'not performing'.

If it had had a normal advertising campaign... if people had not predicted certain things, it would have been fine." Part of Emmerich's unease stems from the fact that he has built his reputation on getting in low-profile projects, such as 1994's *Stargate*, under budget and on time. With its wall-to-wall special effects, *Godzilla*, Emmerich knew, was always going to be different. Even so, he confesses, he suffered "anxiety attacks on an almost daily basis" over the sums needed to update the 'Fifties Japanese classic for the Nineties. "I think some people in Hollywood have lost any real relationship to money," Emmerich muses. "It's like play money."

It was on another of his early space epics, *Moon 44*, that Emmerich met Devlin, the son of a Hollywood producer, was a product of the *Star Wars* generation, and shared Emmerich's childlike glee in the old-fashioned genre movie. "Roland and I have always had this philosophy which is that we're not so much filmmakers as film fans," he says. "What happens when we finish a movie is, we say, what would we like to go see Friday night?"

Fine words from the man who, while at film college in Munich, was responsible for the



It is strange as a director to hear your movie has made \$75m and then be told that it is "not performing", says Roland Emmerich of his latest movie, 'Godzilla'.

most expensive student film ever made. His pricey graduation project was a typically *Boys' Own* story of the American space shuttle programme.

"At film school they said it would be the biggest disaster of all time," he laughs. "Then, to everybody's surprise, it was a success. It was shown at the Berlin film festival."

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"Roland and I have always had this philosophy which is that we're not so much filmmakers as film fans," he says. "What happens when we finish a movie is, we say, what would we like to go see Friday night?"

After casting bland B-list leads Matthew Broderick and Maria Pitillo (and bringing Jean Reno on board to add some much-needed charisma as the French secret service agent Philippe Roache), Emmerich and Devlin set about their deadpan delivery. "What we felt then was, do it straight, and let the joke be there for those who are hip enough to get it," says Devlin. "Any time you have a 200-ft lizard running down a street, it's kitsch. You don't have to hold up a sign saying it."

Emmerich did, however, have to hold up signs showing his actors where the monster was during filming.

"You tell the actors, 'OK you're going to walk into the street, and he's there', and you tell the cameraman to shoot upwards because he's very big."

After they had all had a laugh miming degrees of dumbstruck, Emmerich returned to the editing suite to cut the movie, before a crack special effects team finally added its computer-generated star.

"There were about 30 kids," laughs Emmerich, "all between 18 and 28. These were all kids who were hanging behind their computers their whole life. They hadn't even studied anything, or been to college."

"They have no social skills whatsoever, and all of a sudden they are thrown in these big rooms of about 200 people. Every one of them had this little booth where his computer sits, and every one of them looks like a boy's bedroom, or locker, covered in cartoons and monster models and stuff. They're very nerdy."

"Sometimes I thought, 'OK, we're making this movie for \$125m, and it's in the hands of a bunch of kids'."

As the "event" deadline of their massive opening loomed closer, Emmerich and Devlin found themselves under enormous pressure to complete the picture. "It was the tightest schedule I have ever had," Emmerich admits. "We had several meetings in the last few months of filming, where we were saying to each other, 'can we go to Sony and say the movie isn't finished on time? But we just thought that they would faint or have heart attacks...'"

Unsurprisingly, despite the disappointing returns Devlin is having no talk of failure, ingeniously suggesting that it is, in fact, *Godzilla*'s subtlety that distinguishes it from its \$800m-grossing predecessor. "Independence Day was a completely different kind of movie. Especially for the Americans: clear hero, clear villain and a big cheer at the end of the movie. This is more like an old-fashioned monster movie, where the ending is bitter-sweet. It's a little more complex, a little bit more rich. I think if you look at it in those terms it's the most successful monster movie in the history of film."

Emmerich and Devlin's boyish enthusiasm for B-movie fantasies seems genuine. And in a post-*Titanic* world Sony are certainly not the first studio to decide that a collection of B-list actors playing into empty space, a group of computer nerds and a massive marketing campaign were a licence to print money.

But, as *Godzilla*'s US profits have proved, it is not just the critics who have found *Godzilla* wanting.

"Size does matter, it seems - but so do script, plot and characters." The mass audience has, like *Godzilla*, proved "cunning and adaptive". After consuming over-hyped tat like *Twister* and *The Lost World* once too often, this time they are too canny to snap-up the B-movie bait.

## Sling Blade

Sometimes a hero comes from the most unlikely place.

STARS TOMORROW

OSCAR WINNER 1997 BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

STARS TOMORROW

# Obsession is nine tenths of the flaw

Novelist Brett Easton Ellis is trying not to care, but a new documentary is too distracting. By David Thomas

**B**rett Easton Ellis was literature's Mr Numb. The material spoilt, but emotionally devastated LA brats that populated his precocious debut novel *Less Than Zero* - published in 1981 when he was still just 21 - did everything possible to dull their senses with drugs and avoid commitment of all kinds - anything to avoid the pain that connection with another human being inevitably brought in its wake.

By 1991 and his third novel, *American Psycho*, that sense of alienation had developed into a form of emotional autism: the book's psychopathic anti-hero, Patrick Bateman, is a 26-year-old Wall Street trader who has an obsessive interest in and knowledge of material possessions but no concept at all of the value, or even the reality, of other people. That's why he kills them - a process described by Ellis with the same pin-sharp, pornographic detail he has earlier bestowed on accounts of, say, a Toshiba VCR.

Ellis, it has always been assumed, did not just create these people by accident. He, too, was the child of a Los Angeles divorce. He, too, lived in New York, wore expensive clothes, went to cool clubs, took too many drugs, screwed up his personal relationships. Now he is in London to promote *This Is Not An Exit - The Fictional World of Brett Easton Ellis* - a documentary about him that is to be shown at the ICA

this week before being broadcast on the South Bank Show on 23 August. At 34, he's grown up and gained a certain perspective. "I did have a persona and I see it cracking. The Brett Easton Ellis I presented to people was what I thought was cool, what I thought I needed to do, and I don't want to do it any more. I'm not a numb, anaesthetising person. I think I'm approachable and okay."

"I'm so sick of my fey coy routine. I'm tired of being depressed. I want to be a new Brett. I'm much more happy-go-lucky."

He says all this in heavily self-mocking, ironic tones, laughing at his own absurdity as he does so. But the thing about Ellis, like a lot of clever, funny people, is that as much as he makes hilariously self-deprecating jokes about his self-obsessions, he's still completely self-obsessed. Take his reaction to *This Is Not An Exit*: "I was going to play this either way," he says, when I ask him about the film. "Either (a) I hadn't seen it, or (b) a long, windy, evasive performance, you know. You're asking the wrong person. I can't be objective..."

"You mean, you think it stinks," I suggest. He grins, pauses, then adds, "I will say this. I think the makers of the documentary have my best interests at heart. They are..." he draws massive quote-marks in the air... "fans. They think they have brought the best out of Brett Easton Ellis and they are very well-intentioned. That is my statement."

Except it isn't. For the next sev-

eral minutes he rambles on about how he felt under pressure from his publishers to take part, how he was flattered by the attention - "A documentary about me? Sure! Why not? Let's film it now!" - and how they made him drive around New York in a limo, which he never does, how they played "colossal tricks" with the lighting and how he hates the dramatised scenes from his book which punctuate the film, and how talking about a film about himself is practically unbearable and, oh, "Maybe I shouldn't take it so seriously. Maybe I shouldn't care. Just have a good time." And then we get to the crux of the matter. "One thing you would hope is that they'd just make me look good. But it was shocking to see myself for 80 minutes on-screen. They caught me when I was fat and effeminate."

I tell Ellis that there should be a tape of the programme waiting for me downstairs in reception. "I'll race you to that desk," he says. "There is no way you are going to

get hold of that tape. You will not leave the Hempel alive."

Luckily for us both, the tape has not been delivered. So I pick it up from the producer's house instead, and can thus reveal that, given the limitations imposed by TV budgets, the makers have done a pretty good job of translating the atmosphere of Ellis' work to the screen too.

Deep down, he knows this to be true. "I walked out of the screening ranting and raving and the person who was with me said, 'What are you so upset about?' I said, 'I am not that person! I don't talk or act like that!' And she said, 'Oh, but you do.'"

If Ellis is paranoid, it may be because they really are out to get him. *American Psycho* was a subject of bitter controversy before it was even published. Staff at Ellis's publishers refused to work on the book, claiming that it was misogynistic, pornographic and offensive and it eventually came out to a chorus of outraged disapproval and even death threats.

To this day, Ellis says he is baffled by the fuss. Yes, the book contains stomach-churning accounts of sexual abuse and physical violence, but - he claims - it is not about violence. It is, if anything, a feminist tract: the men in it are, without exception, appalling. This much is undeniably true - Andrea Dworkin could not come up with an account of male insensitivity, aggression, paranoia and fear of women any more relentless than the one Ellis devised. In retrospect, what seems clear is *American Psycho* is one of the key works of late 20th-century fiction, not just for its content - which is a flaw, but astonishingly acute account of pre-millennial consumer decadence - but for the fuss it caused. The media hoopla revealed the obsessions and hypocrisies of our times with unmitigated clarity.

There is a wonderful moment in *This Is Not An Exit* in which a male literary critic attacks Ellis because, while the male characters in *American Psycho* are all very forceful, "the women are all very shallow." Well, that's a fine, pat-yourself-on-the-back, liberal sentiment, guaranteed to win a boy Brownie points. But it's also idiotic. The book is told from the point of view of a psychopathic murderer. He is incapable of seeing women as fully-rounded human beings. That's why he cuts them up.

This, however, is not something that polite, correct society likes to consider. We know that despicable serial killers exist and that they commit acts of sickening atrocity. We are perfectly happy to get vicarious thrills from books that deal with their activities from the detective's point-of-view, once the blonde is safely dead on the bedroom floor. But when a writer lifts the lid on the mind of a killer we are all offended - as if it would be possible to have such a book without all the nasty bits. The problem is surely not Ellis's misogyny, but society's squeamishness.

The whole controversy may well be re-ignited if Oliver Stone succeeds

in filming *American Psycho*, with Leonardo di Caprio in the leading role, as he plans to do. "I would never want to see an Oliver Stone movie based on a Brett Easton Ellis book," says the author. "Those are two temperaments I don't think would interact." In the meantime, he's awaiting the publication of his own new novel, *Glamorama*, a terrorist thriller set against the fashion scenes of New York, London and Paris. It has, apparently, much more of a conventional narrative than his previous work, although the extracts shown in *This Is Not An Exit* suggest Ellis has lost none of his ear for empty-headed, urban dialogue.

He is not expecting to be forgiven by the feminists who hated *American Psycho*. "There is nothing I can do to appease them or make them change their minds." Nor does he sound as though he is making much of an effort to do so.

"I've worked out the way to deal with women," he says. "Just act crazy. They fall for it every time."



Brett Easton Ellis: 'One thing you would hope is that they'd just make me look good. But it was shocking to see myself for 80 minutes on screen' *Rudi Xavier*

## VIDEO WATCH

MIKE HIGGINS



Disney without the schmaltz: Jan Sverák's charming 'Kolya'

**Kolya** (12) (available to buy now, £12.99) You could waste a lot of time trying not to like Jan Sverák's charming drama - the schmaltzy conceit has a 55-year-old Czech musician lumbered with a cute Russian child he grows to love - but don't bother. Sverák imbues the tale with a sophistication far beyond that usually demanded by Disney, the film's distributors.

Living comfortably, if without much cash, in pre-Velvet Revolution Prague, philandering Franta (played by the director's father, Zdenek) is left the child of his Russian bride when their paper marriage dissolves with her defection to the West. Sverák's vision of life in Eighties Eastern Europe under the shadow of occupying Soviet forces carries the film alone. Franta may have been kicked out of an international touring orchestra for misjudged cheek towards the Communist authorities, but he lives in a flat that capitalist democracy would put way beyond his income and the thriving black economy obviously suits his appealingly louche bearing. It's a great relief to find that Kolya, his new stepson, is that rare film species: a genuinely attractive child. The very young Andrej Chalimon accompanies Franta to the funeral jobs to which he's been reduced and witnesses his seductions with a winning lack of affection. The Best Foreign Language Film Oscar winner of 1997 is a real treat.

**The Myth of Fingerprints** (15) (available to rent from Monday) Not everything Julianne Moore graces turns to gold, it would seem. The actress who lent the slick *Boogie Nights* a bit of heart is the eldest of four siblings, including a: Noah Wyle, who return home for a fraught Thanksgiving. Moore's the most eye-catching character but, among all the family bickering, it won't take you long to realise that Noah Wyle's kooky malcontent is being paraded

as the main attraction: from sensitive, confused preppy in a to sensitive, confused drop-out here.

However, the more he bleats about an incident three years before between his then girlfriend and his gruff father, Roy Scheider, the more you realise that Bart Freundlich's film, from his own script, is little more than TV movie fodder. The prevailing December gloom is lifted by some pleasing performances and Freundlich labours to delineate the chilly dynamics of a large, feuding family but his script fails to give its characters much depth nor us any light relief.

**Prisoner of the Mountains** (15) (available to buy now, £15.99) Sergei Bodrov's fine anti-war drama is the week's second video to touch on the effects of Soviet expansionism. In this case, Sacha (Oleg Menshikov), a roguish

sergeant, and a bewildered

script, Vanya (Sergei, the director's son), are captured by Chechen guerrillas and held ransom in expectation of the return of the rebel leader's son, held by the Russians. While Bodrov's economical direction takes time out to detail rural life in the Caucasus, the

"An engrossing, intelligent thriller, rigorously scripted, insightfully directed and excellently played."

- Mark Kermode, BBC Radio 1

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## DOUBLE BILL



RAJAN KHOZA, DIRECTOR OF 'GURU IN SEVEN', TALKS ABOUT HIS IDEAL CINEMATIC PAIRING

LA VIE DE JÉSUS  
(DIR: BRUNO DUMOND, 1996)  
GUMMO  
(DIR: HARMONY KORINE, 1998)

THESE TWO films could be a double bill because they are both first features from young directors. Also because of the subject, as *La Vie de Jésus* is about a small village in northern France and *Gummo* is based in a small town in Ohio. I was thinking yesterday when I was watching the Wimbledon final with Pete Sampras and Goran Ivanisevic, that Sampras had the same centredness and

precision as *La Vie de Jésus*. And with the two films it is like watching two champs, two completely different styles dealing with the similar subject matter.

Both films use non professional actress. *Gummo* has 13- or 14-year-olds and *La Vie de Jésus* has 15- or 16-year-olds. *La Vie de Jésus* has real kids who are unemployed, down and out and so on, and encounter hatred and racism. This is observed without prejudice and restores humanity without making a judgement, the same as in *Gummo*, with the

teenagers killing cats or getting high, which shows how the predominant American culture is shaping the young mind. How the children are in the films enables you to see them as how they are shaped by our society. Both films don't make any moral judgement, which is most beautiful. It is important to me that both films are contemporary first features and give a vision of the future.

*La Vie de Jésus* is like seeing old French masters such as Bresson - who is more than 90 now. It is a very disciplined work, rigorous cinematically

which shows in its narrative structure and composition. Whereas *Gummo* to me is mad genius, technically intuitive in the way it uses sound and editing. And the multi-layers at which it approaches its subjects and different levels of meaning; it is chaotic; it is almost like a collage of images. *Gummo* combines all sorts of film formats and is uninhibited. It is the future. *La Vie de Jésus* has a restraint that does not see that, which has its own beauty.

INTERVIEW BY  
JENNIFER RODGER



Gummo: 'Mad genius, technically intuitive, multi-layered'

# Rising son's farewell to arms

Takeshi's violent humour made him an icon. But the anti-hero plans to alter his status.

By James Mottram

**F**ew writer-directors in modern cinema truly embody the oft-used critical accolade of "cult". "Bear" Takeshi Kitano does. So aloof and off-beat, yet so thought-provoking is his work, that the man acknowledged as Japan's "number one entertainer" could start a religion and no one would question him. Kitano is a ubiquitous renegade in the Japanese media, and his latest film, *Hana-Bi*, won the Golden Lion at Venice last September, exposing him to a wider audience in a continent that has adopted him as its own. The title literally translates as "fireworks", though Takeshi splits the word into two: flower (*hana*) and fire (*bi*), emphasising the duality of nature that similarly runs through the veins of his film's protagonists. Takeshi plays the lead character Nishi, another violent cop-on-the-edge in a career made from such anti-heroes, who turns to crime to fund his crippled colleague's painting hobby and a final, beach-side holiday for his terminally ill wife. An elegiac film, with moments of lyrical beauty, it is his best (and most familiar) piece since his philosophic 1993 masterpiece *Sonatine*, a film that one critic called "the Zen rock garden of his work".

Speaking in enigmatic aphorisms, Takeshi explains his film in abstract yet somehow enlightening terms. "It's like a pendulum, really, swinging from gentleness to violence and between serious and comic elements, like real life. Human beings in general are like the pendulum, swinging between both ends. It's like the potential energy theory in physics. The more extreme you go, the bigger the reaction."

His face as placid and implacable as on film, he speaks deflly: "I was very anxious the moment I made this film that it would be hard for Europeans to understand the philosophy, but it appears to me so far that the European audience understands more of this. The actions of the main character, Nishi, cannot be regarded as a total act of stupidity. It is easy for an audience to regard his life in that way. There is a certain narcotic attraction to the way he lives his life."

You could argue much the same for Takeshi. During the interview, which is conducted through a trans-



Good cop, bad cop: In his latest, award-winning film Takeshi plays a police officer who turns to crime to help a colleague

lator, his diminutive stature and shy demeanour bely the media-dominant profile he commands in Japan. Takeshi appears on television eight times a week in a mixture of game shows, nature programmes and chat shows, and his talents also extend to writing. A regular newspaper columnist and sports commentator, he has published two novels (the semi-autobiographical *Kids Return*, upon which his last film was based, and *Many Happy Returns*). His four collections of critical essays, including *What to do with Hopeless Women*, have led to accusations of xenophobia and misogyny. That this did not stop him gaining the position as men's correspondent for women's weekly *Bisho* indicates the respect afforded to him in his native land.

Takeshi has established himself over the past decade as the director of modern Japanese cinema formerly lacked. Fans include such luminaries as Akira Kurosawa and that chronicler of pop culture Quentin Tarantino - symbolic of the trivial and serious nature of his work. Oscillating between extreme violence and meditative thought, his seven films - from his explosive 1989 debut *Violent Cop* onwards - deal deliberately with death and disability as commonplace. From *A Scene at the Sea* (1992), in which Takeshi plays a deafmute dustman who teaches himself to surf, to the cyclical examinations of failed youth, his work is an examination of the tensions that strain the surface of Japanese society. "I choose the theme death to run contrary to the Japanese way of life. Japanese people persistently stick to the notion of life," he says. "Death in nature comes unexpectedly. It's a violent thing. In one moment, the family can be disintegrated, whether it's the death of a parent or a child. The Japanese family is a fragile thing. Until *Sonatine*, the characters in my film chose death as a way of escaping. In *Hana-Bi*, the character is learning to confront death, face to face. His attitude towards death is like a challenge."

Partially (albeit unconsciously) inspired by real events, *Hana-Bi* is testament to Takeshi's own ability to face the infinite. A motorcycle accident four years ago left his face half-paralysed. Undeterred, he took up painting, a discipline that finds its

way into the film via the character of the wheelchair-bound cop Horibe. Takeshi's own etchings of animals double for Horibe's, a cathartic response to dealing with his own artistic temperament.

Such parallels in his work stem from his childhood in the crime-ridden Seijo suburb of Tokyo. Takeshi, who was born in 1948, had an abusive father, but his hard-working mother helped him to study engineering at Meiji University - only for him to drop out in his fourth year and squander the money on drinking, too ashamed to admit that Honda would not recruit him. He accumulated a gambling debt of £17,000 and ran away from home in 1971, sleeping rough and crashing on friends' floors. It was here that he "mentored" himself to the stand-up comic

Sensaburo Tanu, and a year later was employed as resident comedian at the Franz-za strip-joint in Tokyo. He went on to form a double act, "The Two Beats" (the nickname has stuck ever since), and successfully secured a slot with the Japanese TV station NHK in the mid-Seventies. He spent the rest of the decade developing his unique brand of contentious, scathing and scatological humour which poked fun at politicians and yakuzas alike. By 1980, though, upon the suggestion of *In the Realm of the Senses* director Nagisa Oshima, he took towards drama, playing a psychopath in a made-for-TV movie that subsequently led to the role of the brutal Sgt Gengo Hara in Oshima's own hallucinatory Second World War POW drama, *Merry*

Christmas. Mr Lawrence. Takeshi, who utters the film's title line, spent much of the shoot deliberately annoying the legendarily foul-tempered director by forgetting his lines. His only other exposure to Western audiences is best forgotten. His Japanese-language roles, meanwhile, reflected his cultivated image of part-time cultural guru, part-time thug for hire. It was the latter that won him the lead in *Violent Cop*. Consistently experiencing a tempestuous relationship with the Japanese media, Takeshi has since perpetuated, even exploited, his hard-man image. A string of TV commercial appearances, for example, includes one for toothpaste, in which he whacks a boy for choosing the wrong brand.

Admitting that he must seem

like a "workaholic", Takeshi now views film-making as his real profession: "Appearing on TV is just like going to the playground. It only proves how stupid the Japanese TV industry is; how easily they consider that things can be made. They don't respect creating things. The Japanese media say my films have never been big hits because I'm only a comedian. In the past two years, the attitude towards my films has turned upside down. The moment that they learnt that my films are popular in Europe, the way the media perceived them changed."

Influential, but rarely influenced, Takeshi will doubtless remain anti-authoritarian and provocative. His cameo appearance in the low-budget *Tokyo Eyes* bears this out. Takeshi self-mockingly plays a yakuzza not allowed his own gun, instead carrying a plastic umbrella for a weapon. Most likely it is an oblique reference to his attack, a decade before, on a magazine editor who had printed photos of him leaving a "love hotel" with a starlet - and received a battering with just such an umbrella. The incident secured Takeshi a year-long ban from TV but also assured his place as a cult icon.

Yet it is a status this Renaissance man is ready to alter once more. "In my mind, *Hana-Bi* is the end of an era, my violent film years. For the next project, I want to expel those violent film elements. It's a bit of a challenge for me, but I plan to tell a story about a child who is trying to find his real mother that can be seen everywhere around the world." This also assured his place as a cult icon.

**TOUGH**  
From the Author of 'Get Shorty'  
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**TOUGH**  
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## THE CHARTS

### US BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS
1 The X-Files	2629	\$41,604,418
2 Mulan	2888	\$37,216,746
3 The Truman Show	2911	\$18,160,527
4 Six Days, Seven Nights	2759	\$15,892,351
5 A Perfect Murder	2755	\$10,852,206
6 Can't Hardly Wait	1987	\$6,819,729
7 Hope Floats	1876	\$5,403,822
8 Godzilla	2337	\$4,704,162
9 The Horse Whisperer	1852	\$4,158,886
10 Deep Impact	1972	\$3,819,553

### GERMAN BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS
1 Deep Impact	603	\$823,444
2 Blues Brothers 2000	407	\$695,517
3 Mercury Rising	405	\$568,947
4 Titanic	465	\$357,621
5 Picture Perfect	160	\$309,949
6 Murder at 1600	127	\$288,731
7 Comedian Harmonists	388	\$177,682
8 The Man Who Knew Too Little	254	\$119,526
9 Mr Magoo	444	\$118,219
10 Deconstructing Harry	95	\$117,941

### UK BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS
1 City of Angels	294	£1,738,994
2 The Wedding Singer	274	£1,559,433
3 Sliding Doors	260	£593,559
4 Deep Impact	262	£413,149
5 The Exorcist	31	£224,898
6 Titanic	153	£163,637
7 The General	80	£155,639
8 Wishmaster	137	£129,307
9 Scream 2	133	£124,949
10 Red Corner	111	£73,476

### AUSTRALIAN BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS
1 Deep Impact	247	£401,958
2 Godzilla	295	£1,055,437
3 The Horse Whisperer	233	£782,275
4 City of Angels	155	£325,336
5 Kundun	21	£272,875
6 The Little Mermaid	111	£320,958
7 The Wedding Singer	143	£226,310
8 Anastasia	161	£183,600
9 Everest	3	£127,296
10 Wild Things	78	£95,297

### ITALIAN BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS
1 Red Corner	113	£294,454
2 A Clockwork Orange	66	£139,139
3 The Big Lebowski	42	£115,590
4 Deep Impact	42	£105,378
5 Life Is Beautiful	38	£70,449
6 Arizona Dream	37	£68,606
7 Three Men and a Leg	37	£64,566
8 Titanic	35	£59,212
9 Lost Highway	25	£45,377
10 Fallen	32	£38,459

### JAPANESE BOX OFFICE

TITLE	SCREENS	WEEK'S TAKINGS
1 Deep Impact	19	\$1,706,026
2 Titanic	29	\$1,696,946



Embeth Davidtz and Kenneth Branagh form a powerful and eye-catching combination in *The Gingerbread Man*

## An identity crisis that's good for business

Embeth Davidtz's versatility has brought meaty roles. Just don't call her a star. By Anwar Brett

**L**ocked in a plush Holland Park hotel room, busily promoting her latest film, the actress Embeth Davidtz suddenly makes an unexpected apology: "I was a terrible waitress, so if I ever served you, I'm sorry."

Fortunately, the waiting is over for the American-born, South African-raised 32-year-old, who has been busily accumulating an impressive list of credits in the seven years since she relocated to the States.

"I left South Africa with something like \$3,000 (£1,800) on me," she recalls, "and started my life all over again. I'd reached a point where I'd been nominated for my theatre work, and had done a small film there, and I felt it wasn't going to get any better."

"They were cutting back on funding for the theatre, so I packed up everything I owned and left. It was really terrifying at first. I was driving round in this beat-up old car, barely making a living, waitressing during the day and working downtown at the opera each night."

Those dark days may have seemed endless at the time, but Davidtz can look back on a remarkably quick entry into films, when she was cast as the female lead in Sam Raimi's raucous fantasy adventure *Army of Darkness*.

"That was one of the first scripts I read," she continues. "I loved making the film, though I did wonder if this was really what American film-making was about."

"It was a hoot to make, but Sam had to fight for me because the producer described me as a skinny blonde, when they wanted a

bosomy woman with flowing long hair. Sam said they could achieve that with a corset and a wig, so let's do it. And that was just three months after I'd landed in the States."

Davidtz's career has gathered pace since then, and has demonstrated a range that many more established actresses can only dream of. Theatrically trained, she credits the repertory system, and the challenges of playing a different role each night, for this talent.

But versatility, while prized among actors, only confuses some in the business who might be expected to know better. Fortunately,

'Since 'Schindler's List', every nice, delicate Jewish part that came up was sent to me'

a handful of noted film directors spotted that her talent was right for their films.

Biggest of all was *Schindler's List*, in which she played Amon Goeth's maid-servant, Helen Hirsch. Then there was the little-seen Merchant-Ivory production *Feast of July*, then Danny DeVito's impressive *Matilda*. Now she plays in Robert Altman's jazzy version of John Grisham's tale, *The Gingerbread Man*.

"I've always been lucky in having directors who've stuck their necks out for me, and supported me in my work," she adds gratefully.

But this problem is exacerbated when confusion arises over Davidtz's nationality. Her ability

with accents is at once a help and hindrance - her normal speaking voice is in clipped South African tones - while her unusual name, taken from her grandmother Emily and Elizabeth, only adds to the confusion.

But in the end, it is the work she does that has brought Davidtz to a wider public, and bigger, better films. Cast by Steven Spielberg in *Schindler's List* after he had seen her in a television movie, Davidtz is not slow to recognise the importance of that film on her career.

"What *Schindler's List* did was open the door for me," she admits. "Before that, I would probably have taken any job that came my way, but it opened the door to this inner circle, and I started doing studio films and things that I wanted to do."

"But I'm still not a name: I've not been in a blockbuster. That's why Bob Altman had to fight for me to be in *The Gingerbread Man*, because they wanted so-and-so who had been Oscar-nominated, because she would bring in so much at the box office."

This need for contrasts and variety in her work is at odds with typical Hollywood career-building. Yet after playing the impossibly lovely Miss Honey in *Matilda*, the actress was delighted to be offered the role of the unstable - quite possibly lethal - Mallory Doss in *The Gingerbread Man*.

"I've been looking for something that got me away from Miss Honey for the longest time," she smiles sweetly. "Since *Schindler's List*, every nice, delicate Jewish part that came along was sent to me."

"I did *Matilda* because I love Roald Dahl, and I'd just done *The*

*Feast of July* which was quite heavy, but I was really excited by the prospect of playing Mallory, because it was so different from the other things I'd done."

Elevating the pulp perspective of the usual John Grisham story, Altman brings a disorientating, noisy feel to the tale of an arrogantly successful attorney who finds himself embroiled in kidnapping and murder when he takes up with a vulnerable young woman.

With Kenneth Branagh playing the arrogant attorney Rick Marquard, and Davidtz offering a twist

'You can get stuck in a rut if people lack imagination to move you to another place'

on the traditional *femme fatale* role, this is intriguing stuff to watch, and turned out to be a delight for the actress to play: "I think Bob wanted someone who wasn't an obvious *femme fatale*. But my nerves were shot all the time, because I doubted whether I was carrying it off, that people wouldn't believe me in that part."

Creating a hurricane, to add to the need for contrasts and variety in her work is at odds with typical Hollywood career-building. Yet after playing the impossibly lovely Miss Honey in *Matilda*, the actress was delighted to be offered the role of the unstable - quite possibly lethal - Mallory Doss in *The Gingerbread Man*.

"I've been looking for something that got me away from Miss Honey for the longest time," she smiles sweetly. "Since *Schindler's List*, every nice, delicate Jewish part that came along was sent to me."

"I did *Matilda* because I love Roald Dahl, and I'd just done *The*

would put Miss Hooey to the back of people's minds."

"Thank God! For the most part people liked me in it, even those who didn't like the film. They said, 'this is different from Embeth Davidtz, which is great.'

"I know what I really am, but you can get stuck in a rut so easily if people don't have the imagination to move you to another place. I'm not one of those people who have absolute confidence in themselves - you're always scared when you're making something and wonder if you're getting it right - so I was really thrilled with the result."

Content to remain an actress rather than aiming to become a star, Embeth Davidtz seems less likely to suffer the pressures of fame than so many of her peers. She is as down-to-earth as they come, and admits that her first thoughts of spending a couple of days in a hotel to do interviews were that she wouldn't have to do any washing-up.

She is in a relationship with the English actor Ben Chaplin, and has even talked about living in the UK, away from the hype and hullabaloo of Hollywood.

But above all, she is going to continue to seek out interesting, challenging roles and, however bad things get, you will not find her waiting at tables again. That much is certain.

"I certainly don't have people beating down my door to cast me in their films - but that's fine. Actors tend to have to wait longer for the right parts. If you hold out and retain your integrity they come."

"I'm lucky because, for the most part, I've been able to do the things that I really wanted to do."

Gifford recognises that audiences want to walk away knowing what happened and why, but he chooses not to tell them. He is more interested in the process and takes us on a journey questioning ideas of reality and identity, more concerned with raising questions than giving any answers.

"I realised long ago that if forced to choose between revelation and mystery, I'd take mystery every time," he says. "Revelations solve very little, they serve only to preclude further thought, whereas mysteries continue to force speculation. The object, I concluded, is to encourage invention, not reduce possibilities."

Gifford makes a statement - even if it is one we may not understand - a statement that is hard-hitting, real and, arguably, seductive. He ultimately remains true to his own style of writing and does not compromise.



*Lost Highway* was described as an 'elaborate hallucination that echoes perversity'

"bizarre", particularly his work with the film-maker David Lynch. When their latest film, *Lost Highway*, was released, *The New York Times* described it as "an elaborate hallucination that echoes perversity". Both this and their earlier film, *Wild at Heart*, were violent, but in the wake of films such as *Reservoir Dogs*, *Pulp Fiction* and the forthcoming *Trainspotting*, it is difficult to believe that anything Gifford might have to offer could offer a grittier version of life. Perhaps what Gifford offers is more complex. He provokes, misleads and confuses his audience and does not deliver the escapism they demand.

Rebel Inc welcomes this alternative voice and praises it for "showing it the way it is". Gifford uses different words to describe his work: "symbolic" or "elliptical". In his recent book, *The Phantom Father*, he tells how he lost his father at the age of 12. He subsequently spent his life in a world surrounded by adults, who did not want to reach out to him in his world but instead left him struggling to interpret theirs. Gifford became a master of the unsaid, of the unexplained. These themes and ideas are the essence of his work, the symbolism in people's actions and words, the constant struggle to attach meaning when no single meaning is given.

Gifford is still writing after 30 years, and admits that Hollywood's interest has made life sweeter - and has kept his son in school.

But he admits that he would love to have his work well received in Britain.

Rebel Inc has published *'Simola Story'* together with the complete *Sailor and Lula* stories. They are obtainable from Canongate Books, 14 High Street, Edinburgh. *The Phantom Father* is published by Horcourt Brace, 15 East 26 Street, New York, NY 10010. Other books by Barry Gifford to order from Amazon Books on <http://www.amazon.com/>

**J**OE SIMPSON'S *Touching the Void*, an account of the real-life mountain disaster undergone by the writer and a friend, has apparently attracted the attention of the Hollywood stalwart Tom Cruise.

Though Cruise's continued interest depends upon the quality of a forthcoming script, Gavin (*The Borrowers*) Scott cannot complain of a lack of decent material.

Following a successful assault on a peak in the Andes with his climbing partner Simon Yates, Simpson was left for dead when he fell off a ledge, seemingly to his death. Yates cut the rope connecting him to his partner and struggled back to base camp, only to find

Simpson there - frost-bitten and with a broken leg, but otherwise very well.

**T**HE WALT Disney Group may regret the day it secured the rights - via Miramax - to Kevin Smith's next film, *Dogma*, a scabrous religious satire.

Though the plot's details have only recently come to light, it has long been known that the maverick auteur is planning to give Catholicism a right metaphysical kicking.

The screenplay, which Smith wrote before Clerks brought him to international attention four years ago, centres on a couple of hell-

**RUSHES**  
MIKE HIGGINS

raising angels. Ben Affleck and Matt Damon, who are booted out of heaven. The feature also includes a female God (played by the singer Alanis Morissette) and a black 13th Apostle.

According to Affleck, the script also includes a scenario that you are unlikely to find in the New Testament: following a not-so-immaculate conception, Mary and Joseph raise another child whose female descendant works in an abortion clinic.

Understandably, Disney

execs are said to be getting the fear about the project.

Although Disney has yet to go on the record with any misgivings about it, and Miramax are citing their parent company's contractual obligation in release the film - as long as it does not get too restrictive a certification - *Dogma*'s content will no doubt be carefully monitored, given the trouble Miramax encountered with *Priest* in 1995.

The British film about a pair of priests struggling to keep their sexuality under wraps in a good network of the Catholic community, and culminated in a boycott of Disney products.

FRANCIS FORD Coppola has won \$20m (£12.3m) in

compensatory damages from Warner Brothers for what the director believed was its role in scuppering his planned "live-action" epic based on the story of *Pinocchio*. The court case turned on whether the jury believed Coppola's assertion that Warner Brothers had unfairly acquired elements of the director's screenplay when buying a similar treatment from one of Coppola's collaborators. Coppola also claimed that his attempts to revive the project with Columbia had been hampered by Warner Brothers when they refused to agree financial terms. Warner Brothers is expected to appeal.

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# FAST TRACK

GRADUATING TO THE WORLD OF WORK

British accountancy firms are lagging behind their US counterparts in offering staff the chance of a life outside the office. By Nicole Veash

## Get the biggest perk of all: a life

**W**ork-life balance, progressive management, employee-friendly initiatives, anti-long hours culture: all these phrases are buzzing around in the world of Human Resources.

Last month, a survey by WID, the international consultancy specialising in new work initiatives, said that most British workers make sacrifices at home for the sake of their careers. There were few gasps of surprise when the news was announced. To most, this is plain common sense.

The debate on how we work has been rumbling away for some time now. A few companies, primarily small-to-medium-sized firms, have instituted initiatives that radically alter the way their employees operate. In larger businesses, the Square Mile firms and big financial players across the country, there has been well-meaning debate but only a few timid innovations.

There is the odd flexi-time work arrangement here, and the occa-

*We want our people to work in a way which is compatible with a full outside life*

ional child-care facility there, but rarely are these developments company-wide initiatives.

Those firms that have made progressive steps forward, albeit tentative ones, are likely to have taken a lead from their US counterparts. The work/life balance has preoccupied American management consultants for some time now.

Big firms, such as the accountants Ernst & Young and Deloitte & Touche, are implementing practices that have the potential to reshape workaholic workplaces and which, once set in motion, could revolutionise the world of work on this side of the Atlantic.

Since the early Nineties they, along with other American blue-chip firms, have employed a task force of consultants to remodel their businesses, with the prime aim of giving treadmill employees a life beyond the workplace.

Deborah Holmes was the outsider who sculpted the developments at Ernst & Young. The head of Catalyst, a research group, she was hired by a company concerned by its inability to hold on to corporate female staff. Though male and female professionals were hired in equal numbers, only 8 per cent of the firm's partners were women.

The real issue behind this appalling drop-out rate was the com-



Deborah Holmes of accountants Ernst & Young. "People don't just want an exciting job," she says, "they want a life outside work."

Justin Sutcliffe

pany's work ethic, as Holmes explains: "There is an intense environment in our type of business. People work 50-plus hours per week and that entails constant travel for most partners and managers.

"When we first started the Catalyst study 48 per cent of women and 47 per cent of men said their workloads were 'excessive'. People said they didn't just want an exciting job, they wanted a life outside work."

Holmes, who now heads Ernst & Young's newly created "Office of Retention" in the US, introduced job sharing, flexi-work and telecommuting schemes. The prime reason for changing employment routines, is, of course, care for children or elderly relatives, but employees who

want to further their education, and those who are involved in competitive sports training, can also apply for the new work arrangements.

Crucially, those opting for these methods are not overlooked when it comes to promotion.

"The flexi-work arrangement is available to everybody, but it is not an entitlement or a right," says Holmes. Only 1,000 people, from a US employee base of 29,000, took up Ernst & Young's flexi-work offer.

"Studies show that not more than 5 per cent of any company's employees will use this type of work formula at any one time," argues Holmes, "so we think our take-up rate is not bad considering

the scheme was introduced only a few years ago." More innovatively, Ernst & Young brought in a telecommunications ban for some employees. During weekends and holidays they are advised not to check either their voice mail or their e-mail - a staggering change in an industry devoted to servicing clients' needs at all hours of the day.

Although the company's new employment practices, including mentoring and internal networking schemes, are aimed at their female employees, Holmes claims that they are having a significant knock-on effect on the attitude of their male staff towards work. "We want to make sure our people work in a way which is compatible with

a full outside life," she says. At the accountancy rivals Deloitte & Touche, the story was much the same, with the chairman, Michael Cook, also introducing measures to stop the haemorrhage of female staff. A US spokeswoman, Amy Ray, admits the change was as much a business decision as a desire to improve their employees' daily lives.

"Our clients suffered from a lack of continuity because of the high turnover of female staff and this was something we wanted to stop," she says. "There are big costs relating to turnover. It costs thousands of dollars to train an accountant, and if you lose one you incur the costs of hiring and training someone else.

"We also realised that the de-

mographic profile of our clients was changing, and it was essential our service matched their needs."

Deloitte & Touche's flexi-work scheme and Internal Council on the Advancement of Women, which meets annually with the firm's bosses to review their Women's Initiative, have helped win the company 14th place on *Fortune* magazine's list of "100 best companies to work for in America". But for all the plaudits received by America's best, the same companies have done little to introduce similar work changes in their UK branches. British employees still have far less attractive deals than their US counterparts.

Barry Lewskin, an American, who was formerly head of Ernst & Young, says that it is because in Britain company executives see female retention and the life/work balance as business issues, rather than solely moral or social issues, that the methods he advocates are more likely to win the day. "I would like to see mentoring and flexi-work formalised in Ernst & Young's UK office," he says, "but I wouldn't want to see something like the telecommunications ban legislated by the company. That should be left to the individual."

The other side of the coin is, as Deborah Holmes explains, that US employers are forced to be proactive in employment methods precisely because the state doesn't provide for people. "You get maternity leave paid for by the state and there is no equivalent over here. That's why there are greater welfare obligations on our companies," she says. Lewskin admits that, while his US equivalents are taking great strides forward, "we are not so advanced in this debate."

"We are moving in the right direction, although real resources are needed to do the job properly."

The truth remains that while many big city institutions support and indeed advocate women's advancement, the bigger cultural change about the way we work is still a long way off. And, in Britain at least, old habits die hard.

**Age:** 45.  
**History:** The company's birthplace was at the Old Cock Inn in Halifax, where it was originally christened the Halifax Permanent Benefit Building and Investment Society. For a while, it operated out of a room over a shop in the town's old market, rented for just £10 a year. It has come a long way since then: these days, it is the world's largest building society, and became a public limited company last year. It has around 900 branches in the UK and is the country's largest mortgage lender with 2.5 million borrowers. It also looks after the savings of 15 million customers.

**Address:** The company has not wandered far from its roots: headquarters are still in Halifax, West Yorkshire, but there are branches everywhere.

**Ambience:** Commitment and participation are key concepts: after the company's flotation, 80 per cent of staff became shareholders under an employee scheme, and there is a thriving "suggestions" scheme. The last few years have also seen a jump in the number of women in senior management: from 2.7 per cent to more than 15 per cent. There is an emphasis on charity, with a community affairs programme that has given around £5m in grants since it started, and an annual competition between teams working with local charities. Day-to-day working practices can be flexible: job shares and part-time work are

### A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

HALIFAX PLC



The Halifax is the country's largest building society with assets of £131bn, so where better to invest in a career?

available, as are "career breaks".

**Vital statistics:** Nearly 37,000 people are employed by Halifax in the UK. Pre-tax profits last year increased by 15 per cent to £1.649bn; the group has assets of more than £131bn and has also won several awards, including National Lender of the Decade and Best Residential Mortgage Loan Provider.

**Lifestyle:** Trainees are given a

base location for their two-year training programme, but are sent on secondments, usually lasting a month, to various places - head office, business centres, branches or estate agencies, for example. Opportunities for voluntary and community activities are integrated into the training programme.

**Who's the boss?** Dr Mike Blackburn is CEO; Jon Foulds is chairman. **Easy to get into?** On the face of it, yes. Last year, Halifax took

on around 100 graduates, and this year it is looking for even more. The company wants bright, rounded people: those who can lead a team, inspire customer loyalty, influence the direction of the business and continually progress on the basis of results, contribution and potential", says its spokeswoman. Shortlisted candidates are invited to an assessment centre.

**Glittering alumni:** Chief executive Mike Blackburn was pushed into the limelight recently when Leeds Metropolitan University gave him an honorary doctorate; Vera Duckworth received hers at the same time, and joined him to give the photos.

**Pay:** The company will only disclose that it is performance-based, with a profit-sharing bonus.

**Training:** The two-year graduate programme is both structured and intensive, a blend of on-the-job experience and internal and external courses (including one run by a business school, and another by an outdoor centre). After the first two years, graduates can progress into other managerial training.

**Facilities:** Employees can take out any customer or colleague-induced frustrations in the squash court or gym at headquarters. There is also a staff canteen.

**Who's the boss?** Dr Mike Blackburn is CEO; Jon Foulds is chairman.

RACHELLE THACKRAY

### BULLETIN BOARD

considerable confidence in [firms'] ability to grow over the remainder of the year, particularly with service sector clients. In the long term, however, there must be some concern about an ever-weakening manufacturing base."

**BRITISH COMPANIES** are being encouraged by the Institute of Directors to embrace electronic commerce. The institute has published a guide in association with SAP, the computer software company, that aims to tell directors about opportunities in this field. The booklet appears just as a Mori study shows that the concept is taking off in Europe, with nearly a quarter of companies with access to the World Wide Web earning revenue via the Internet.

**MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS** brought a touch of brightness to the increasingly gloomy economic picture by reporting income in the second quarter of this year up 7.6 per cent to £634m. The figures from the Management Consultancies Association, which represents the country's largest consulting firms, are in contrast with those for the first quarter, where growth was just 2 per cent. Bruce Petter, recently appointed executive director of the association, said: "There remains

last for 12 weeks. Interested students, graduates and companies should contact Rhiannon Egerton, marketing officer, on 01792 295248.

**COMPANIES THAT** fail to appreciate the importance of staffing issues when transferring outsourcing contracts run the risk of employees refusing to go with the work and the resulting "nightmare" of not being able to run critical services by the required date, according to Ian Law, a consultant with KPMG Management Consulting. He told a conference last week that companies must realise that moving from one employer to another, or even being forced to relocate, can be a traumatic experience for employees, and one they would rather avoid".

**UK INSTITUTIONAL** investors estimate an average failure rate of 40 per cent for chief executives brought in to turn around underperforming businesses, according to a study by the business regeneration unit at PricewaterhouseCoopers, the accountancy firm. The survey, which aimed to understand the pressure on new chief executives, found that most fund managers and analysts expected convincing evidence of success within 18 months. Many investors also believe chief executives should face a greater financial penalty if they fail, and that golden handshakes for those who do should be less generous.

ROGER TRAPP

Now men, too, are resorting to surgery to keep their looks – and jobs. By Glenda Cooper

# When a man's got to have a face-lift

**I**t's tough being a man and it is getting tougher. In the past you held down a job by hard work, determination and talent. In our youth-obsessed age that is not enough any more, and men are turning to the 'rip and tuck' so as not to lose out to younger men.

Women have endured this sort of lookist prejudice for years – a past study presented to the British Psychological Society told how women in the City were divided into 'babes' and 'mums' on the basis of their looks – but men have presumed to be exempt. Not any more.

Last year almost a quarter of cosmetic surgery operations in the US were carried out on men. In the early Nineties they accounted for only 14 per cent. The American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons says that its members are now performing 80 per cent more face-lifts than in 1990. More common for men, though, is minor work – to remove bags under the eyes, or shore up sagging skin under the brow.

There are no national figures for the UK, says the British Association for Plastic Surgeons. But Kevin Hancock, a Bupa plastic surgeon on Merseyside, who has recently done two face-lifts on men, says: 'Increasing numbers of men are coming to see me wanting a variety of things – facial cosmetic surgery, rhinoplasty, eyelid or bag work.'

'I think men come for cosmetic surgery for two reasons. There are those who want to change a particular feature – such as their nose – and they can be any age. Then there are the men who are getting older and want rejuvenation. They want to look younger, maybe because they have a younger wife, but also because of the pressures of work. The men who most commonly come to see me are in their fifties, particularly if they want eye bag surgery.' Liposuction is also another popular choice, says Mr Hancock, for men who wish to restore a youthful shape to their chest or waist.

'It's business pressures,' agrees Jason Saks, business manager of the Farjo Health Centre, which specialises in hair transplants. 'Men can have particular problems with their hair, which can fall out from your early twenties. It's not necessarily

an age thing, but in the business world, image is important. Look how few bald prime ministers or leading politicians there are now. You have to appreciate there is a lot of pressure on guys.'

'There was a psychological study which showed that people associated baldness with weakness,' says Dr Bessam Farjo, who specialises in hair root transplant microsurgery. 'It's quite logical, as it's associated with the very young – babies – or the very old. The act of shaving prisoners' heads takes away their identity and their individuality; it is no wonder that men feel vulnerable about losing their hair.' The hair transplants that Dr Farjo carries out usually take three operations to complete – at £1,750 a time. He has noticed that the number of men coming for transplants has increased in the last few years. 'People know more about it; they are more aware of it because of the media and because there is much more pressure on everyone to look young.'

Those men who wish to take the plunge should be warned, however.

There are two professional organisations – the British Association of Plastic Surgeons and the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons – but says Bryan Mayou, secretary of the BAAPS: 'Unfortunately, as the law stands anyone can come out of medical school and call themselves a cosmetic surgeon.' An estimated 65,000 people a year undergo surgery to improve their looks but up to one in five need corrective surgery later, which places a considerable burden on the NHS.

'One of the best ways to find a reputable surgeon is through personal recommendation,' says Mr Hancock. 'But he warns that people should not expect miracles. 'I think the phrase 'realistic expectations' is the most important thing to stress. I don't have a magic wand. I can't completely change your life.'

But if you feel the only way to achieve business success is to look younger, you are in exalted company, as Dr Farjo points out. 'People forget that Julius Caesar went completely bald. That's why he started to wear a laurel wreath; he knew that people in positions of power need to appear young and virile. So it's nothing new.'

Raad Jaboori: 'They transferred 1,100 hairs from the back of my head to the scalp' Rui Xavier

## I COULD AFFORD IT, SO WHY NOT?

**T**IT'S BLOODY vain," admits Raad Jaboori. "I know it is. But at the end of the day I could afford it, so why not?"

Thirty-one-year-old Mr Jaboori has recently had a hair transplant to cover the balding patch on his crown. In January he underwent hair-root transplant microsurgery, which involves taking follicles from the back of the head and transplanting them to the bald area, and the hair is starting to grow back.

He feels that more and more men are turning to cosmetic surgery and hair transplants:

"There's a lot more pressure on men than, say, 20 years ago when a bloke was just a bloke. These days there's pressure to look good not just to attract a partner but because it's good for your work and your career. It certainly helps in my position – I'm a sales manager – when you have to go out and meet a lot of people."

The procedure was relatively straightforward.

"Well, the operation did take four hours but it's only under local anaesthetic so I just watched television all the way through it. There was no pain. I didn't feel a

thing. They transferred 1,100 hairs from the back of my head to the scalp and within a couple of months it was just like normal hair."

He says that he had been steeling himself for guillows from his friends and colleagues, but no one teased him. "I was expecting some ribbing but I didn't get that. In fact, people seemed to think I was really brave getting it done. Three or four people came up to me and asked for the number of the clinic and another of my friends wants her boyfriend to get it done. I think it's brilliant."

**I AM** 34 years old and graduated in 1996 with a BA honours degree in sculpture. I have been working since then in factories and am desperate to escape and find a more rewarding occupation. As you can imagine there are not too many regular jobs for sculptors. During the last two years I have had a number of interviews for figurative modelling, including a trial at Madame Tussauds, but again was unsuccessful.

I am beginning to realise that I may not find work in my chosen field and have started to think about broadening my outlook. I have vaguely entertained the possibility of three-dimensional computer graphics, or anything else that may require a similar type of hands-on technical skill. I would be grateful for any suggestions.

David Carr, Leicestershire

**TRULY FOCUS** on what direction you want to take and the skills you have to offer, and assess whether your form of sculpture and knowledge of materials and processes are applicable to the companies you are contacting.

When applying for work you must be as informative as possible, demonstrate your capability within your portfolio, and after application follow up and ask for feedback on your work. It is important that once you have established a positive contact within a company, you follow up on a regular basis.

Within the environment of animation model making for commercials, the projected workload can change in a matter of weeks. There are a lot of very talented people wanting to work within creative environments and, as with Aardman, those companies will have hundreds of CVs on file. You must prove that you have the drive, and keep reminding them who you are.

Aardman employs freelance model makers/sculptors; on our commercials site contracts last between six and eight weeks and we are currently employing eight people on these.

Our features site contracts run from six months to a year.

and we have more than 40 people working on these at the moment.

Kerry A. Evans, resource manager, Model Making, Aardman Animations

**YOU ARE** correct when you say that you may well not be able to find work in your chosen field.

It is a sad fact of life that leisure is what people really want to do and they are therefore willing to do it for nothing. Conversely, work is what people do not want to do, and it therefore must be paid for. Traditional sculpting falls into the former category and the laws of supply and demand mean that you are unlikely to get paid for it.

However, all is not lost. If you have talent, then by learning a few skills, such as using a computer graphics package, you will find that you have a combination that companies are willing to pay for. I would recommend 3D Studio MAX, Photoshop and Lightwave.

At the UK's leading specialist agency for artists, programmers and other creative people who want to work in the computer games' industry, we would expect you to be able to demonstrate your talent by providing sample artwork and having an aptitude to learn, or already possessing, computer skills. You should not expect a high salary initially, and please be prepared to relocate.

I would really like to see your CV and artwork, but I would recommend that your 3D appreciation and spatial awareness should be harnessed and turned into a saleable skill.

Reading magazines such as Computer Arts and Edge will help to keep you informed of current trends.

Julien Hofer, director of DataScope

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**If you have a work problem and want expert advice, write to Carmen Fielding, Fast Track, Features, 'The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; e-mail c.fielding@independent.co.uk**



## A healthy dose of trust

### CV

**DAVID JOHNSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF A 'SUPER TRUST' OF HOSPITALS IN LEEDS**



David Johnson: 'There is no hidden agenda'

**D**avid Johnson, 41, is chief executive of a 'super trust' of hospitals in Leeds, which includes St James's and Seacroft University. He now earns a £125,000 salary but his first job in the NHS was as a £25-a-week porter.

I got a temporary portering job while I decided what to do after finishing a politics degree at Sheffield University. I worked at Lodge Moor hospital in Sheffield, which is closed now. There is no doubt it gave me an insight into hospital life. I was attracted to hospital management as a consequence of being a porter.

I was a porter in the X-ray department, which was a job nobody else wanted to do because it involved a lot of walking. Some of my early experiences there demonstrated the value of the NHS to me. My first job in the day would be to go up to the spinal injuries unit and collect patients for their various examinations and radiology. I would see some really tragic cases – young kids who had car accidents and faced the prospect of spending the rest of their lives paraplegic. The support they would give to the NHS, regardless of the pain, was something which I thought should make this country feel really proud.

There were other important experiences – during that time there was the industrial action of 1979, the Winter of Discontent. That gave me an insight into the difficult industrial relations climate in the NHS. And it also showed me at first hand the impact that downing tools can have on

patients. After being a porter for nine months, a senior radiographer said I should consider the NHS management training scheme. I thought that managing hospitals would be as complex a challenge as you could get. The connection between a management career and a political environment was something that attracted me. I had been fairly active in student politics and had been involved in the grant protest issue, the anti-Nazi league, and had attended a few demonstrations in London. In the early days of my degree, I was very concerned at the gaps that exist in society; those people who the Labour government would now say were 'excluded' from mainstream society.

I became chief executive after the post was advertised nationally, and I did that for six years.

Then, when the two trusts

in Leeds merged, the position was again advertised nationally and I got it.

I would say I am generally level-headed. Of things that people say about me, first is that I listen, particularly to the clinical professions. I hope I have earned the respect of my clinical colleagues. My style is consultative. I encourage them to correspond: I've got a big file from clinicians telling me how the trust should be run. My job is to help them do what they are trying to do.

People say I am direct and straight – there is no hidden agenda. We employ 15,000 people in this organisation and if you work on trust you can give people the best service possible with the resources you've got.

The training scheme lasted two-and-a-half years and I went to hospitals in Manchester, Oldham, and Rochdale.

They send you on various attachments to give you an impression of the NHS from both the patients' and the doctors' perspectives.

When that finished, I was not guaranteed a job but got one in open competition at Manchester Royal Infirmary. I stayed there for just under two years.

Then I was asked to apply for a job in Pontefract, in Yorkshire, which gave me my first general manager's job in a hospital. I moved to St

James's four years later as director of operations, which meant I was running the biggest hospital in the country on a day-to-day basis.

I became chief executive after the post was advertised nationally, and I did that for six years.

Then, when the two trusts

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT

NO 002046 OF 1998

IN THE MATTER OF

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(IN ADMINISTRATION)

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR

NEW JUSTICES' LICENCE

LICENSING ACT 1964

NOTICE OF HEARING

HEARING DATE/TIME:

Wednesday 21 August 1998 at

10am

PREMESS:

The Off Licence, 3 Fairgreen Parade, London Road, Mitcham

APPLICATION:

Keith Vincent Denham

ADDRESS:

37 Westfield Road, Ealing, London, W13

TRADE OR CALLING:

Owner/Manager

REASON FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT INTENDS TO APPLY FOR THE LICENCE:

TO AUTHORISE THE APPLICANT TO

SELL AND SUPPLY

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT

NO 002047 OF 1998

IN THE MATTER OF

ACHIEVE LEARNING (UK) LIMITED

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS TIMES MIRROR TRAINING EUROPE LIMITED)

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE OF HEARING

HEARING DATE/TIME:

Wednesday 29 July 1998 at

10am

PREMESS:

The Off Licence, 124 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AB

APPLICATION:

Keith Vincent Denham

ADDRESS:

37 Westfield Road, Ealing, London, W13

TRADE OR CALLING:

Owner/Manager

REASON FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT INTENDS TO APPLY FOR THE LICENCE:

TO AUTHORISE THE APPLICANT TO

SELL AND SUPPLY

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

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# SOFTWARE

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Contact: Matt Strange Ref: MT2840  
email: [matt\\_strange@ers.co.uk](mailto:matt_strange@ers.co.uk)

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Contact: Matt Strange Ref: MT2841  
email: [matt\\_strange@ers.co.uk](mailto:matt_strange@ers.co.uk)

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## 20/APPOINTMENTS

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## GRADUATE, PUBLIC, GENERAL

THURSDAY REVIEW  
The Independent, 9 July 1998

FAX: 0171 293 2505

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To: Teacher Training Agency Communication Centre, FREEPOST AN02059, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3ZC. I would like to learn more about becoming a teacher. Please send me an information pack.  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Status (e.g. Student/Employed/Unemployed/Retired): \_\_\_\_\_ Special Teaching Interest (Primary/Secondary/Subject): \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL EMPLOYMENT

With local partners, Manchester Training and Enterprise Council is committed to developing the community and voluntary sector as an employer of local people. A £17 million programme of capacity building and local employment commenced in April 1998 and is set to last for three years. The programme, funded through European Social Fund, Single Regeneration Budget, New Deal and partners' funds, is being implemented by a new team consisting of staff with responsibility for developing local employment of local benefit and delivering employment projects.

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Working with Sponsoring Employers to provide management and supervision support and access to appropriate business services. Contributing to the employment of young people and development of the Sponsoring Employer.

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**£15,000 - £25,000**

Previous applicants will be automatically re-considered. If you wish to apply for any of these vacancies, please send your CV with a covering letter to Philip Murphy, Human Resources Department, Manchester TEC, Lee House, 90 Great Bridgewater Street, Manchester M1 5JW.

Closing date: By 1st post 15th July 1998.

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The Social Survey Division of ONS has vacancies for Interviewers living in certain sectors of the following postcode areas AB, AL, B, CH, CT, CV, DA, DL, DN, DT, EH, EN, FY, G, GL, HA, HG, HR, HX, KT, KY, L, LE, M, ME, NG, OL, PA, PR, SK, SL, SN, SP, TS, TW, UB, WN, and the London Boroughs. (Those applying in areas within these postcodes where no posts are currently available will be kept on file and considered at a later date.)

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Candidates should have a pleasant manner, smart appearance, and good communication skills. Own car and telephone are essential. The work is hourly paid at attractive rates plus expenses. Interviewers are required to be available for at least three days and three evenings per week. The retirement age is 65.

For an application form please write to Central Support Unit, D1/11, Office for National Statistics, 1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2QO. Postcards only. Requests should be received no later than 17 July 1998, and completed application forms by 31 July 1998.



ONS is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from suitably qualified individuals, irrespective of racial origin, sex or disability. All applications will be treated on merit.





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Please apply writing, enclosing your CV and salary expectation to:

Allison Cracknell, SDL International, Butter House, Market Street, Maldenhead, Berkshire, SL8 8AA

Fax: 01628 410505 e-mail: [alison@sdiltd.co.uk](mailto:alison@sdiltd.co.uk) <http://www.sdiltd.com>

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Cambridge

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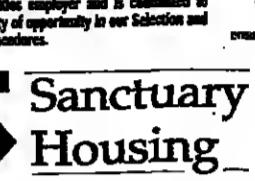
For an application form and information pack, please contact Kate Holloway, Sanctuary Housing Association, Granchester House, Granchester Road, Cambridge. Tel No: 01223 726060.

CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date: 17 July 1998.

Interview date: 27 July 1998.

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References will be taken up on the successful candidates

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Workers Educational Association  
4 Castle Hill, Rochester, Kent ME1 1QQ  
Telephone: 01634 404237

Closing date 27 July 1998

### THE INDEPENDENT

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Pages of appointments every Thursday

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## NEW FILMS

## SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Director: Ivan Reitman  
Starring: Harrison Ford, Anne Heche  
Question: what happens to the action hero who is too old to leap from moving trains and cling to the landing gear of a 747? Answer: he reinvents himself as a romantic lead, rolling around with women half his age instead of alligators or ill-tempered Nazis. The latest actor to undergo this inelegant transformation is Harrison Ford. As long ago as *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, he groaned: "It's not the years that count, it's the mileage," a sentiment which he has greater cause to invoke in this movie.

An absurdly mechanical screenplay throws a boozey cargo pilot (Ford together with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche), who is holidaying in Makatea when she gets a call requesting her presence at a photo shoot in Tahiti. She ropes Ford into flying her there, but a thunderstorm forces them to crash-land on a remote island. The director, Ivan Reitman, has adopted an old-fashioned approach which relies on implausible contrivances, but this qualifies as gritty social realism compared with the moment when Ford and Heche laughably recreate the famous *From Here to Eternity* beach scene.

Even at his most relaxed, Ford is too cautious and studied ever to secure an audience's trust. His irritating young co-star, David Schwimmer, of *Friends*, is no less ill-at-ease as Heche's fussy-budget fiancé, his presence calculated to lure another portion of the public who might otherwise stay at home reasoning, quite rightly, that nobody really needs *The African Queen* remade as a knockabout caper by the director of *Ghostbusters*. CW: *Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*.

## LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

Director: Richard Kwieciowski  
Starring: John Hurt, Jason Priestley  
See The Independent Recommendations, right.

CW: *Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Gate Notting Hill, Renzi, Richmond Filmhouse, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket*

## GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Director: Randal Kleiser  
Starring: John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John  
I didn't warm to the garish musical *Grease* the first time around. But one thing which it has in its favour 20 years on, is that it hasn't dated; its 1950s setting has picked the film. What fun there is to be had from a work defined by its lack of ambition comes from John Travolta's cocksure performance as a Brylcreamed high-school heartbreaker. CW: *Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*.

## KURT &amp; COURTNEY (15)

Director: Nick Broomfield  
There is a tragically pertinent lesson about the sacrifices which fame demands hidden somewhere in *Kurt and Courtney*. But it would take a more intuitive film-maker than Nick Broomfield to wheedle it out. The picture hits its emotional peak very quickly, when Broomfield visits Kurt Cobain's aunt, and hears recordings of the singer made when he was two. From there, he assembles reminiscences and conspiracy theories, finally tracking down Courtney Love, Cobain's wife, who, in the process of filming, pressured many of the movie's financiers to pull out.

*Kurt and Courtney* is a voyeuristic freak show in which various interested parties, each with a stake in the Cobain legend, are paraded before us. The film's fatal flaw is that Broomfield places himself above these characters. He can't see that he has become the *maitre d'* in this parasites' banquet. CW: *Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End*

Ryan Gilbey

## GENERAL RELEASE

## THE APOSTLE (12)

Director Robert Duvall plunges into his role in a manner that is both terrifying and entrancing. West End: *Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square*

## THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)

Jeff Bridges, John Goodman and Steve Buscemi star in one of the most string-out mysteries ever. West End: *ABC Panton Street, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End*

## THE BIG SWAP (18)

A drab, unconvincing and preachy drama about partner-swapping. West End: *Plaza*

## CITY OF ANGELS (12) . . . . .

Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan). West End: *ABC Baker St, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

## OREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Take a suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a mooth to live and give them a few months on the road together before an inevitable fatal farewell. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream With The Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem refreshing. West End: *Metro*

## GIRLS' NIGHT (15)

Shameless tearjerker with Brenda Blethyn as a cancer suffering bingo winner who jets off to Las Vegas for a last-chance holiday with her sister-in-law (Julie Walters). Initially bubbly, the picture soon turns grossly manipulative. CW: *UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

## THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

Jaunty take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester in the 1970s. The lively script is complicated by the sparkling performance of Joanna Ward as the film's heroine. West End: *Rio Cinema*

## JACKIE BROWN (15)

The movie's main focus is the desperation of its characters to make something of their lives before it's too late. West End: *Plaza*

## JUNK MAIL (15)

This Norwegian black comedy's portrayal of the Oslo postal service is defamatory at best. Though its mixture of genres isn't entirely successful, *Junk Mail* has enough originality to see it through. West End: *Ritzy Cinema*

## THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

A maimed and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés. West End: *ABC Piccadilly*

## LIVE FLESH (18)

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the origin of Pedro Almodovar's most accomplished film to date. West End: *ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Mayfair, Odeon Camden Town, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street*

## MIMIC (15)

Mira Sorvino is a doctor who successfully combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival cockroach species to wipe out the original disease-carriers in this ingenious science-fiction horror fable. CW: *Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

## MY SON THE FANATIC (15)

Hamid Kureishi establishes an opposition between an agreeable Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim. West End: *ABC Swiss Centre*

## THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds Jennifer Aniston's dreams of weddings by turning out to be gay. CW: *ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road*

## POINT BLANK (18)

Re-release of John Boorman's chilling existential thriller starring Lee Marvin. West End: *Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green*

## PALMETTO (15)

Ironic film noir directed by Volker Schlöndorff. Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women. CW: *Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

## PONETTE (15)

French tale of a precociously intelligent four-year-old girl (Violette Thivisol) whose mother dies in a car accident. The young Thivisol is superb, yet it's hard to deny discomfort at watching one so young parade emotion this raw and primal. CW: *Curzon Mayfair, Metro*

## RED CORNER (15)

Richard Gere's very public pro-Tibet stance must have blinded him to the failings of this clunking piece of anti-Chinese propaganda. West End: *Odeon Marble Arch, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys*

## THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)

Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. West End: *Virgin Trocadero*

## SAVIOR (18)

Politically inept war film set during the Bosnian conflict. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and avenges their deaths before becoming a hired killer. West End: *Virgin Haymarket*

## SLIDING DOORS (15)

Romantic comedy continuum, sending its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, off into two separate realities at the same time, with two different suitors. West End: *ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

## SOUL FOOD (15)

A black version of *Parent Hood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies. West End: *Clapham Picture House*

## STAR KID (PG)

Children's adventure about a young boy who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget it makes up for in imagination. West End: *Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

## STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

Spoof of the Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Leaving Las Vegas*. West End: *Plaza, Virgin Chelsea*

## THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

The joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, but thanks to highly naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and moving experience. West End: *Renoir*

## THE WAR AT HOME (15)

Tale of a traumatised Vietnam veteran on his return home to Texas, adapted from James Duff's Broadway play *Homefront*. CW: *Plaza*

## THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

Dumb but winning comedy about a wedding singer (Adam Sandler) who for a waitress (Drew Barrymore). West End: *ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village*

## NOTTING HILL CORNET

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# THURSDAY TELEVISION

BBC1

## THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

### TELEVISION REVIEW



"CHOCOLATE Nemesis is our most popular and to be shot out putting," said Ruth Rogers. "It's very through Ruth Rogers' Kitchein (Ca.). This is rather as if Hitler were to say, "Our successive excursion to Poland has aroused much interest among us foreign friends" because most of the talk about Chocolate Nemesis, in contrary circles anyway, has been about how almost nobody can get the recipe to work at home.

Instead of the trembling

mouse-like you saw bare,

distraught boids end up with a brown, stumpy suggestion of a distressed cow. Delightful, shiny? It's true, but lacking something in taste appeal. No light was thrown on the mystery in the last of the series but I suspect the possession of a weapons-grade food colour probably helps you could see that the River City's model had whipped the edges to the point where they wouldn't have done let the mixture collapse.

The quality of the machinery

is pertinent, anyway, because an television series, *The Nutkin Kitchen* honours the stated

relatively simple techniques

applied to the best ingredients

you can find. This, among

work quite go all the way

because presenters Ruth

Rogers and Rose Gray aren't

exactly top of the range, it's

probably best to think of them

instead as organic television

presenters, objects whose very

irregularities guarantee the

absence of artificial chemicals.

Everything is top quality the

conducions are flamed

either in grilling, flattening

wood-fired oven (lickering

alluringly in the background)

or in a rhythmic interior

which burns condense into a

form of olfactory. If an

ice-cream machine is needed it

will be a Cuisinart of an

ice-cream machine, complete

with chromed freewheel bow and

pedals. If anyone is involved

in the recipe, they will be

lentions picked straight from a

Zurbaran painting, thick-

skinned and adorned with the

perfected chymomatic grace note of

a green stalk.

All of this is presented

straightforwardly – in formal,

uncluttered shots from square

the work surface. No cooking

for visiting Marin cooks, though

no all-access grilling sessions on

Hannoversch Münden Bridge, no

frontline wendeville at all – which

favoured (Ca.)

makes a refreshing change. On the other hand, this kind of seriousness has its own dangers – the television series is never quite as precious as the cookbooks, which can occasionally give the impression that (your

mother) at mukata hasn't been specially flown in from

Naples that day you might as

well give up and go to Spud-

U-Lite. But there are flickers of

the consumer's "soother" –

the return of thinking that

you're in the know and others

aren't. Visiting a famous

gastro in Florence, Gray

conduces his "jurnas" as "well

away from the tourist trail". It's

a while since I've been to

Florence, but when I was last

there, one of the ways

I could see

that the River Arno's model

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